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Haredi TA rally draws only a few hassidic sects

HAIM SHAPIRO

THOUSANDS of haredim gathered at the Tel Aviv Fair Grounds last night in a rally billed as a protest against the desecration of Shabbat and High Court of Justice rulings.

However, there were no fireworks from the speakers, and those gathered represented only a few hassidic groups.

Artye Frenkel, a haredi activist, said the gathering was "a failure."

"It is only Gur and Vizhnitz hassidim. What they are telling the people of Israel is that if you think that the Shabbat belongs to everyone, it really only belongs to Gur and Vizhnitz alone," he said.

Frenkel pointed out that there were virtually no "Lithuanians," no Sephardim, and not even any Habad hassidim at the rally. Outside the Fair Grounds, several groups held protests, including Meretz and Campus, a left-wing student group.

Galit Yori, a demonstrator representing Campus, said she was there to demand a separation of religion and state. She said she too had objections to some High Court rulings, but that the haredim had to accept the rule of law. She especially called on haredi women to come and protest, in view of the fact that the organizers of the demonstration had stated that it was "a holy gathering" and women should not be present.

"Even if they protest against me, I am calling them to rise up against their husbands and come out and demonstrate," she said.

Perhaps the most militant of the speakers was Shas mentor and former Sephardi chief rabbi Ovadia Yosef, who told the gathering that "a Jew who desecrates the Sabbath is to be considered the same as a goy."

Yosef said that, a few days ago, he met with Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo, to press for the case of new immigrants whom he said had been forced to work for the municipality on Shabbat. He said Milo promised him that Jews would no longer have to work on Shabbat.

and that they would be replaced with non-Jews.

"If we have troubles, they are on y because of the desecration of Shabbat," Yosef said.

Vizhnitz Rebbe Moshe Yehoshua Hagger pointed out that observant Jews were forbidden to drink wine, which had been touched by a Jew who desecrated Shabbat. "I have been in Israel for 50 years, and I haven't seen a spiritual decline such as we are experiencing now."

Secular Jews know nothing of Judaism, he said. They are not aware of any Jewish values. Their idea of Shabbat is going to Eilat.

Hagger was highly critical of any compromise regarding traffic on Jerusalem's Rehov Bar-Ilan which would only prohibit traffic during Shabbat services. "After shul, they're allowed to drive?" he asked.

Apparently speaking mainly to the television audience, Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau said he was appealing to "my brothers who are not here."

"Perhaps," he said, "the failure to respect Shabbat is because all the non-religious know of it is prohibitions." He then went on to describe a family Shabbat celebration in detail, with singing and children discussing the Torah.

Lau noted that when he spoke of Shabbat desecration, he was not referring only to Tel Aviv, but to the growing number of shopping malls around the country that are open on Shabbat. "There are hundreds of people buying in these malls, but there are hundreds of people selling as well." The time is approaching, he warned, when an observant Jew will not be able to get a job.

Agudat Israel world president and former MK Menachem Porush said that for over 30 years there had been an agreement in Jerusalem to close streets in which there was a haredi majority. "Even the Mandatory government did that," he said.

Related stories, Page 3



An Egoz unit soldier lies in ambush.

(IDF Spokesman)

IDF reveals undercover Egoz unit in Lebanon

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

THE IDF has revealed the existence of a special forces unit, code-named Egoz, which has been operating against Hizbullah guerrillas in south Lebanon for over a year. The unit sees more combat than any other IDF unit, and has chalked up 16 kills since its first mission 17 months ago.

Foreign reports, mainly from the London-based *Observer* newspaper, have called Egoz a liquidation unit dedicated to tracking down Hizbullah fighters and officials, a charge soldiers and commanders vehemently denied.

"The term liquidation unit is a mistake. This is a regular IDF force, a good unit and operates only in uniform. It doesn't act against civilians, nor with the aim of capturing criminals. It is a military unit which fights terrorists and the Hizbullah organization which operates a guerrilla force," said OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Amiram Levine.

Levine said Egoz, Hebrew for walnut, was formed in February 1995 and was operational by July 1995. He said the IDF decided to acknowledge the existence of Egoz since it was already an "open secret" and added that it was important to "show off our successes."

IDF Spokesman Brig.-Gen. Oded Ben-Ami added it was felt the soldiers in the unit deserved credit for their actions, and public

knowledge of their achievements would boost morale. It is also a clear answer to those who say the IDF had been adopting a predominantly defensive posture in south Lebanon.

The official revelation of the unit comes following a broadcast by Syrian television earlier this month and return on Channel 2 in which Hizbullah guerrillas said IDF soldiers were weak fighters.

"The Zionist soldier was weaker and more panic-stricken than is portrayed in the Zionist and Western media," a Hizbullah gunman told the interviewer. "We saw one Israeli soldier crying in an ambush. We saw his shrieking, his panic and confusion."

Egoz fighters and commanders brushed off the report as propaganda. "I wouldn't call it a liquidation unit, but when you encounter two or three terrorists from a range of five meters and kill him, then you have killed him," said the unit commander, identified only as Lt.-Col. E.

Levine said the idea to set up Egoz broke a generation-long IDF tradition not to cultivate units which specialize on just one front against a single enemy.

"Our weakness was that we didn't get specific training and experience on fighting Hizbullah terrorists. The situation in Lebanon demands this so it was important

that this specialized unit be set up to deal with this unique front," Levine said.

He said the unit, led by a lieutenant-colonel, was set up in record time of just five months. Its first fighters were taken from other elite units, but now they are directly chosen from Golani recruits.

"We have had very nice achievements," Levine said at a briefing for military reporters at a training base in northern Israel. On their very first mission, the unit wiped out a Hizbullah squad, killing two gunmen. It has 16 verified kills, but also suffered casualties and has lost two of its own members and others have been wounded.

Lt.-Col. E. said his unit was able to deploy quicker than other combat units because they knew the terrain and were fine-tuned to Hizbullah tactics and moving patterns. Equipped with the latest combat gear, he said, his troops have been scrambled to fight guerrillas, dropped deep into Hizbullah territory to lay ambushes, and have carried out complicated raids.

The IDF has spared no costs equipping Egoz soldiers with the best equipment available, including laser sights, light weapons and sophisticated radios. It also employs a variety of night vision gear, including thermal cameras that have been used to record fire-

fighting.

US worried over future settlement drive

Oman freezes ties

DAVID MAKOVSKY

OFFICIALS in Washington and Arab diplomats are worried that the Netanyahu government will announce a flurry of plans for settlement expansion once a Hebron redeployment deal is struck, in order to placate right-wing coalition elements opposed to the pull-back.

The US believes that such a move would undercut its efforts to win support for Israel among Arab countries after a Hebron deal, sources say.

While in Europe yesterday, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu expressed his desire to expand settlements, but said he was bureaucratically and fiscally constrained from doing so. "We are accused of unbridled expansion of settlements. Well, I can only say I wish that were true," he said. He added that the Rabin government expanded settlements at a faster pace than the current government, without adverse reaction abroad.

While visiting Madrid, Netanyahu publicly suggested that he and Arafat could personally resolve outstanding issues relating to a Hebron pullback. It remained unclear if the two would meet.

"There is nothing in the outstanding issues in Hebron that couldn't be resolved in one meeting between Arafat and myself," Netanyahu said at a joint news conference with Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar. Netanyahu insisted that a Hebron deal was "98 percent complete."

Netanyahu rejected accusations of "foot-dragging" in implementation of an agreement with the Palestinians in Hebron. Moreover,

he chafed at the depiction of his government in the Arab world as being opposed to peace. "I'll tell you why I'm concerned," he told reporters. "Because there is no foundation for the picture that emanates from the Arab capitals."

Before the news conference, Netanyahu met privately with Spanish King Juan Carlos and then Anzar. Before official meetings, he also met with members of Madrid's Jewish community at the city's central synagogue. Netanyahu's visit to Spain was designated to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the Madrid peace conference in October 1991.

Later in the day, Netanyahu flew to Dublin for talks with Irish counterpart John Bruton. Ireland, which currently holds the rotating presidency of the European Union, opposes Netanyahu's policy of barring visiting foreign ministers from going to Orient House, the PLO's office in eastern Jerusalem. When Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring insisted on visiting Orient House last month, Netanyahu made it clear that he would boycott the Irish foreign minister's visit. In the end, Spring did not visit.

Netanyahu was due back to Israel after midnight last night.

In a related issue, the foreign minister of Oman said yesterday that his country would freeze ties with Israel. Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Youssef bin Alawi told reporters in Muscat: "The Sultanate of Oman has frozen ties with the current Israeli government. And the contacts will remain frozen until we

(Continued on Page 2)

Bill to keep religious councils Orthodox passes first reading

LIAT COLLINS

THE Knesset yesterday passed a first reading of a private member's bill by MK Avi Yehzekel (Labor) which states that only Orthodox Jews should be allowed to sit on local religious councils.

The bill, which passed 22 to 5, raised the ire of Meretz parliamentarians, one of whom called it "a declaration of war."

Among those who opposed the bill were coalition MKs Yebuda Harel (Third Way) and two MKs from Yisrael Ba'aliya. Several opposition MKs left the plenum rather than vote on the bill.

Yehzekel said he intends to submit a similar bill to the religious affairs minister to establish alternative councils for Masorti and Reform Jews.

"The Orthodox don't get on with the Reform [Jews] and there is no point in mixing the different types," said Yehzekel. "A different answer must be found for the Reform and other streams of Judaism."

Deputy Religious Affairs Minister Yigal Bibi, answering for the government, praised the bill, describing it as "the first swallow of spring to come from the Labor party's direction."

MK Amnon Rubinstein (Meretz) responded angrily to the passing of the bill saying, "The Labor

Party has lost its mind in its courting the haredim. The Labor Party is proposing a bill that even the haredim didn't dare propose. This bill is a declaration of war on the Jews of North America and also harms all the principles of equality and democracy."

The Third Way also objected in the name of equality. Harel said the bill violates the status quo.

"The Third Way will do everything to stop the bill from passing second and third reading. We call for Yisrael Ba'aliya. Several opposition MKs left the plenum rather than vote on the bill."

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Hanukka doughnuts - it's more than just eight days

HELEN KAYE

THEY'RE quite open about it on Ibn Gvirol Street in Tel Aviv. At the new central bus station, they're as tight-lipped as the Mossad. At the import emporium, they shrug their shoulders.

What about?
It's the doughnut, stupid. Read the powdered sugar round my lips. Starting tonight, it's Hanukka, but those laden trays of jam-filled, deep-fried, hole-less yeast buns rolled in powdered sugar

started appearing in every bakery, cafe, kiosk, market stall, roadside stand and cake shop a month ago.

"Right now, I'm selling around 75-100 doughnuts every day and it's picking up all the time," a bakery manager says.

His store is about one-quarter the size of the cake shop and cafe down the road, so it makes sense that there "we're selling about 400 a day now. At Hanukka? About a 1,000 I'd say," the manager says briskly as he disappears back into the kitchen.

Malika at the supermarket bread-shop beams as she pops a doughnut into a bag. Her face is lined

and her smile is as warm as the doughnut.

"Oh, my," she says, "we could sell three times as many. But I'm alone here and I don't have the energy. If I have time, I'll make them."

At the bus station, the competition is murderous and sales statistics are guarded as closely as the prime minister. On the sixth floor, a baked-goods stall boss keeps up an unrelenting hoarse chant of "three for five, three for five, three for five."

Two floors down, Menashe is

offering six for the price of five. He's fat, good-tempered, has a mustache and two-day stubble, and is proud of his doughnuts, which he likes to sell "just a few at a time so that they taste of home cooking. Sure. We sell a lot at Hanukka. You have to eat them the same day, you know. They're terrible the next day."

Rapidly he bags 10 for a customer - "I promised her" - and the next time you look, the now empty space is filled with a tray of chocolate eclairs.

Menashe, like nature, abhors a vacuum. Who started the custom of eating doughnuts at Hanukka?

And why in the world does anybody eat them? Most of the doughnuts you buy have soaked up enough grease to lubricate a submarine. The jelly in them tastes of nothing that ever came off a tree or a bush. They have a gazillion calories, but come Hanukka, everybody eats doughnuts from the office party to the first candle-lighting at home.

Like Tevye sings: Tradition!!

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Prisoner shot dead by Jericho jail guard

A PALESTINIAN prisoner in the Jericho jail was shot dead by his guard Tuesday night, the second of six suspects held there for a Hamas activist's murder who have died in custody.

Police said that Rashid Fityani, 20, was killed when he argued with his guard and the guard opened fire. The guard was arrested for questioning about the shooting and "legal steps will be taken against him," the police told Fityani's family during a midnight visit to their home and later in a press conference.

The killing did not appear to follow torture, or to have been planned. Suhaila Siyuri, the mother of Hazem and Yasser, two brothers arrested with Fityani for the murder of Jericho Hamas activist Ibrahim Yaghi in Akabat Jaber refugee camp, saw Fityani alive and in apparent good health a few hours before his death.

Fityani was arrested on January 15, 1995 together with five others for Yaghi's murder a month earlier. All six were held without trial since then. One of them, Salman Jalata, 42, died two days after his arrest.

JON IMMANUEL

apparently after being tortured, the first death of a prisoner for which the PA was blamed. The family also reported a month later that their son had been tortured. They said he had been hit and his skin had been pulled with pliers. He was frequently woken up at midnight to work in the jail and prevented from sleeping. Bassem Eid of the Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group said.

Police said that Fityani had confessed to Yaghi's murder, but he was never tried for the crime. When his mother applied to seven Palestinian lawyers to represent him, most turned her down and those who accepted withdrew their services after meeting with Mohammed Bishtawi, the Jericho military prosecutor, Eid said. She also wrote to Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat several times, who promised he would look into the case.

The police yesterday prevented journalists from going to the hospital where Fityani died or meeting with the family, Eid said.

On the day of his death, Amnesty International published a report sharply critical of the Palestinian police interrogation methods. The last time the PA admitted that a prisoner had been killed in custody was on July 31, when Mahmud Jumayel died in the Nablus jail. On August 11, Khaled Khabal died from torture in the Ramallah jail, his family said, a day after his arrest, but the police denied he was tortured.

After the Amnesty report was published two days ago, Ahmed Abdel Raheem, the PA Cabinet secretary, noted that there had been a great improvement recently in the PA's human rights record. "We no longer receive complaints," he said.

According to Eid, human rights violations have decreased because of Arafat's greater popularity in recent months and the dominating issue of Hebron. "But I have heard of at least five torture cases this past month," he said. Another human rights activist, Khader Shkeirat, was warned yesterday he would be summoned for questioning for accusing the police of murder.



Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani (right) greets Palestinian police chief Nasser Yusef at his Jerusalem office yesterday for their first meeting. In one hour of talks the two discussed ways to improve relations between the Palestinian and Israeli police forces. Kahalani said the September riots left a wound in relations between the two forces that had yet to heal, despite the fact that joint patrols had been resumed. (Text: Bill Hutman; Photo: Brian Handler)

Israeli valve system saved the day in Chunnel fire

JUDY SIEGEL

AN Israeli system of control valves functioned perfectly under tremendous air pressure during the recent English Channel tunnel fire, saving the day and making possible the extinguishing of the flames and the rescue of passengers.

The valve system was manufactured by the 21-year-old Western Galilee company Barmad, owned jointly by Kibbutz Evron and Kibbutz Sa'ar. According to Yiftah Einar, Barmad's applications engineer, the steel valves were operated manually by rescue workers under pressure of 30 to 50 atmospheres. "If they had been unable to withstand the pressure and heat in the Chunnel tubes, the water hoses would have been unable to function," he said.

The company, directed by Yehuda Bechar and employing 240, exports about three-quarters of its products and the rest is sold locally to municipal fire services, industry and the gasoline industry. When the Chunnel was under construction, valves made by another company were installed, but they were found to be faulty and removed. "A public tender in which leading countries around the world applied was won by Barmad, and our valves were installed in the Chunnel," Einar said yesterday.

Around two weeks ago, when Barmad heard of the blaze caused by a fire in one of the 29 trucks being pulled on railroad cars from Calais, France to Folkestone, England - officials called to find out how their valve system had functioned.

They were told that they performed extremely well, despite the high pressures, and received congratulations and thanks. Although numerous passengers suffered from smoke inhalation, there were no serious injuries.

Storm erupts over Bar-Ilan's criticism of US columnist

THERE WAS ANGRY REACTION last night to remarks made by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's Communication director David Bar-Ilan, who branded New York Times foreign affairs columnist Tom Friedman "an anti-Zionist" and someone whom he hoped would not be invited to address American Jewish organizational functions.

When reached for reaction last night, Bar-Ilan stood firmly behind his characterization of Friedman, but denied that he pressured any organization not to invite the columnist as a speaker.

Abraham Foxman, international director of the Anti-Defamation League, said such remarks were a "sad day for Israel," and voiced hope that the Netanyahu government was not developing an "enemies list" as existed during the Nixon Administration. Foxman noted that the ADL invited Netanyahu to speak when he was in the opposition, when there were voices urging that he not be invited.

Zalman Shoval, ambassador to

DAVID MAKOVSKY

Washington during the Shamir government, said last night: "Often, I did not and do not agree with Tom's views, such as his persistent support of Labor during our election campaign. However, I never thought he was hostile to Israel. To the contrary, I respected his intellectual honesty. He was one of the journalists whom I met with on a regular basis in Washington. The question of him being invited to an ADL dinner is an internal American Jewish affair, and none of the State of Israel's business."

Teddy Kollek, former mayor of Jerusalem, said, "From the articles I read, my sense is that Friedman calls it like he sees it. His writing style often illuminates the broader picture. You cannot say that he is an anti-Zionist. You cannot say that everyone who does not agree with us 100% is immediately tarred with a brush of being a permanent opponent."

The name-calling began after one of the heads of the Zionist

Organization of America objected to Friedman addressing the ADL. An American Jewish weekly newspaper followed up by contacting Bar-Ilan, and asked him to comment. Last night, Bar-Ilan defended his stance, but denied contacting any Jewish organization.

"The Forward called me last week and asked if I thought it was a good choice to invite Friedman to be a keynote speaker at the annual ADL dinner. My personal opinion is no, but I would never think of trying to talking the ADL out of inviting him."

"It is my opinion that Friedman is an anti-Zionist. Anybody who writes that the administration needs someone like Jim Baker to twist the arms and break the knuckles of Israel's prime minister and dismisses the security concerns of Israel is, in my view, an anti-Zionist, period."

Ironically, earlier this week Friedman was the guest at a dinner given by Netanyahu's envoy to Washington, Elyahu Ben-Elissar.

Former El Al chief warns Shabbat ban will doom airline

STEVE RODAN

EL AL WILL DISAPPEAR in several years, replaced by a private carrier, unless the government allows the national airline to fly on Shabbat, the company's former director-general said yesterday.

Rafi Har-Lev, who left El Al earlier this year after 14 years as director-general, said the company can no longer afford to survive the brutal airline competition while operating six days a week.

"If El Al doesn't solve this problem, it will disappear from the aviation map," Har-Lev told the Economy 97 conference in Tel Aviv. "This won't happen in a year, but in several years."

Har-Lev said El Al's profits in the late 1980s and early 1990s would have been double or triple what was actually recorded had the carrier been allowed to fly on Shabbat. He said only the sale of the

Deadline passes without word from kidnapped Jew in Grozny

BATSHEVA TSUR

THERE WAS NO NEWS last night about the fate of a Jewish man kidnapped in the Chechnyan capital of Grozny whose captors had threatened to execute him by midnight Tuesday.

"The family [in Grozny and Moscow] has heard nothing and our contacts have not established anything," an official in Jerusalem said yesterday evening, adding that news might come later in the night. Meanwhile, Don Dadayev of Ashkelon, 60, the younger brother of Gilad Dadayev who disappeared, has contacted Yvgenya Finkel, the self-styled Consul General of the Chechnyan forces in Tel Aviv.

Finkel, a new immigrant from Grozny who represents Chechnyan interests here, told *The Jerusalem Post* that she is prepared to travel to Grozny to try to secure the release of Gilad.

"There is a 90% chance that Dadayev can be rescued. But this takes time and this takes money," Finkel said.

"I believe he is being held by bandits," she said. "That is why it

does not help to send faxes or telephone Chechnyan officials. I need to have some \$5,000-\$7,000 dollars to go," she said. "I have to fly to Moscow and then to reach Grozny and look for him. No one knows if he is alive."

Finkel said that if she did not return with Dadayev, "his brother will get the money back."

Don Dadayev said yesterday he did not think he could accept the offer.

Gilad Dadayev, an engineer who worked at the Grozny Neft oil plant, was a well-known member of the Groznyyan community. He disappeared on July 31 on his way back from work to the refugee site where he was living.

Gilad Dadayev had gone back to Grozny to try to collect compensation for his house destroyed in the fighting.

His wife, Sonya, received several hand-written notes from him, saying he would not be released without ransom.

In the last note, Gilad wrote that his captors planned to execute him on December 3.

Israel holds its own at UN

MARILYN HENRY
NEW YORK

DESPITE A SOMETIMES-bruising debate in the United Nations, Israel emerged yesterday from that body's annual votes on the "question of Palestine" resolutions more or less unscathed.

The General Assembly reaffirmed a years-old series of resolutions that challenge Israeli sovereignty over the Golan, and settlement activity. There was one new resolution, regarding Palestinian claims to natural resources.

In most instances, the votes were lopsided, with only Israel and the US voting against the resolutions.

However, the so-called "positive resolution" - in which the UN affirms its endorsement of the peace process - passed with a "massive majority" and with only technical changes, said David Peleg, the charge d'affaires at the Israeli mission to the UN.

The UN rejected numerous suggestions to make substantial changes in the resolutions, including Egypt's efforts to have language added that would refer to Israeli settlements, and the Palestinians' efforts to have the UN refer to settlements as "colonial," Peleg said.

Earlier, Israel successfully blocked Palestinian efforts to have the UN call for Palestinian statehood.

The tallies nearly matched those of last year, which was seen as something of a victory for Israel, because it did not lose any ground.

The policies of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu have come under attack at the UN, especially during a days-long debate two months ago after violence followed Israel's opening of an exit to the Western Wall Tunnel.

"Definitely there is criticism of certain aspects of Israeli policy, and in this General Assembly the number one issue is settlements, especially from France," Peleg said.

However, the UN members realize that "bad resolutions, bad language" may have a negative effect on the situation on the ground, he said. "I think everybody realizes that you have to look at the broader picture. The peace process is at a very sensitive stage. The new government is only six months old and you must give it time to develop its policies," Peleg said.

"There was a feeling in the GA that it would be a big mistake to rock the boat."

Marzel's administrative detention lifted

HERB KEINON

BARUCH MARZEL, the former Kach leader who has been under administrative detention either in prison or at home for nearly three years, was told yesterday the detention order against him was not renewed.

The IDF spokesman did not give a reason for Marzel's release.

Marzel said he was "surprised" to learn that he could now leave the Tel Rumaida neighborhood in Hebron where he lives. "They did not tell me why I was arrested, why should they tell me why I was freed," he said.

Marzel, arrested in April 1994, was one of nine Kach activists and suspected extremists placed under administrative detention shortly after the massacre at the Machpela Cave. He was released some six months later, but - again by administrative order - was restricted to Tel Rumaida. He had to receive permission from the military commander of the central region in order to leave the neighborhood. The detention order was renewed at intervals of two, three and six months.

Marzel said he will do "everything that I can to prevent the redeployment from Hebron." When asked if this also includes using violence, Marzel said: "I never used violence before, and there is no reason to think I will start now."

Hebron settlement spokesman David Wilder said that Marzel's release may be an indication that the Hebron redeployment is not imminent.

"If the government was planning to redeploy in a short time, they would probably have renewed the order against Marzel, or even more likely, arrested him. This may be a sign that [Prime Minister] Netanyahu is not going to abandon Hebron as soon as possible. Marzel is a strong force working to prevent the abandonment of Hebron, not in the sense of using violence, but in swaying public opinion."

Wilder said that although Marzel has been restricted to his home, he has been "instrumental in bringing tens of thousands of people to Hebron." Marzel's release comes a month after the administrative detention of Noam Federman, a co-leader of Kach, who was arrested amid widespread speculation that the IDF was rounding up suspected Jewish extremists.

Race for new A-G post to get under way

SARAH HONG

PRIME MINISTER Binyamin Netanyahu will personally choose the next attorney-general, Likud sources stressed last night, noting that the names tossed into the A-G sweepstakes thus far are not necessarily real candidates for the job.

The sources added that Netanyahu will be in no hurry to make the appointment, which he views as of paramount importance. However, consultations on the matter may start as early as today, Netanyahu's first full day back home from his short European visit.

The prime minister has until January 1 to make his choice, the day the resignation of attorney-general Michael Ben-Yair takes effect.

Since Ben-Yair announced his resignation what was termed a media hype of a contest that hadn't begun and which may never take place. The post of attorney-general, it was maintained, is one which calls for particular trust with the government so the ultimate choice will have to be Netanyahu's.

Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi said yesterday evening that he had seen no "secret list of candidates," and doubts one exists.

Prosecutor calls Deri a liar

PROSECUTING attorney Yehoshua Resnick yesterday accused MK Aryeh Deri (Shas) of lying to police in March 1993, when he said he could not remember any other sources who transferred money to him, besides his wife's adoptive parents.

Resnick said he was relying on testimony Deri himself had given. In that testimony, he said another source had been Rabbi Katznelbogen of Neturei Karta. Deri had said in his testimony that he had asked Katznelbogen - before being questioned by police - if he could reveal his name to them, but the rabbi refused.

Deri said in response to Resnick's questioning: "I cannot say for sure that I remembered when I was questioned by police. It's possible that I knew about

Rabbi Katznelbogen at the time."

"So you told the police something incorrect?" Resnick asked him.

"You want there to be a headline in tomorrow's paper saying 'Aryeh Deri admits he didn't tell the police the truth,'" Deri said. "I don't care what the papers will say. Drop that."

"I understand you don't care at all. It's my blood, not yours. When your assistants stand on the side and brief reporters, it's clear that you do care."

"Maybe the time will come when we'll see who briefs reporters, and who doesn't."

"What matters is what you testify in court, and what is written in the protocol," Resnick replied. (Irim)

We share the grief of Mrs. Serafina Bier on the death of her husband **JULES BIER** and offer condolences to all the family.

Yarden Investment Ltd. David Sofer

The Bendheim Family, together with the Koffolk Management and Staff, express their sincere condolences to Lilly Well and Family on the death of **MELECH TOPIOL**

'Achille Lauro' hijacker extradited

NEWS AGENCIES

ROME - A Palestinian convicted of the 1985 *Achille Lauro* hijacking was extradited back to Italy yesterday, nearly 10 months after fleeing to Spain while on a prison furlough.

Molqi was convicted of shooting a 69-year-old American Jewish tourist, Leon Klinghoffer, and dumping his body off the cruise ship into the Mediterranean.

Molqi was accompanied by two Interpol agents, the ANSA news agency reported.

His disappearance in February while on a 12-day "good conduct" furlough embarrassed Italian authorities and strained relations with the United States.

He was arrested in southern Spain in March by Italian anti-terrorism officers working with the Spanish Civil Guard.

The United States had offered a \$2 million reward for the capture of Molqi.

US

(Continued from Page 1) feel that the Israeli government adheres to what will satisfy our Palestinian brothers... Then we will review the possibility of resuming official contacts with the Israeli government."

Oman operates a quasi-diplomatic office in Israel, and it remained unclear last night whether it would be recalling its representatives as part of the freeze. Israel has quasi-diplomatic ties in Oman. The statement carries special significance since Bin-Alawi is someone who quietly visited Israel privately in the 1980s before other countries began normalizing ties with Israel.

List Collins adds: Foreign Minister David Levy accused the Palestinian Authority yesterday of stalling on the Hebron agreement to portray Israel in a negative light. Answering several motions to the agenda in the Knesset, Levy, who is acting prime minister, said the agreement could have been signed a month ago with good will on both sides.

He told the plenum the government has no plans for new settlements, but the Oslo Accords do not forbid them.

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Bank Hapoalim auditor convicted for disrupting probe

Knesset panel slams sexist ads



Thousands of haredim participated in yesterday's demonstration in Tel Aviv.

DVORA Tomer, the former head of Bank Hapoalim's internal audit division, was convicted by Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday on charges of obstructing justice and disrupting an investigation. Tomer was convicted of misleading the Securities Authority team investigating the bank's Gmulor subsidiary deputy director, Eylon Tsabari, on alleged stock manipulation activities. Tsabari is currently on trial in the court. Tomer, a former senior IDF officer, deliberately misled Securities Authority investigator Reuven Kovent, the court ruled. According to Kovent, when asked for information pertaining to Tsabari, Tomer handed over one document instead of fully cooperating. When the case surfaced, Tomer resigned her post, but remained at Bank Hapoalim on the manage-

ment committee. During the trial, Tomer argued that there was no criminal intent in her failure to hand over documents to Kovent, nor did she intend to conceal information. Instead, she cited mere misjudgment. However Judge Dan Arbel ruled that she deliberately failed to transfer relevant information to help the investigation, possibly because she wished to hide the fact that her auditing department had not succeeded in discovering Tsabari's offenses. The department began investigating in 1992, and in 1994 the Securities Authority launched an intensive probe into Tsabari's and others' activities. According to the prosecution, Tomer forwarded irrelevant information to Kovent and his team.

Two days later, according to charges, she ordered employees to destroy or change any information pertaining to Tsabari's activities, thus disrupting the Securities Authority investigation. In convicting Tomer, Arbel ruled that she was in possession of an abundance of material which could have helped Securities Authority investigators, and that criminal intent was sufficient to convict her. Sentencing was set for a later date. Galit Liptis Beck adds: Bank Hapoalim refused to comment on the episode other than to say the court's decision is seen with much regret. Tomer has continued to work at Bank Hapoalim in non-management positions since she resigned from the position of head of the internal audit division.

THE Knesset Committee on the Status of Women took a commercial break yesterday. The committee, chaired by MK Yael Dayan (Labor), examined how women are portrayed in advertising, and it did not like what it saw. Anat Hoffman, a Jerusalem city councillor who has spent several years researching the subject, showed the committee a selection of pictures from Channel 2 that were taken on a single day, and others from magazines and newspapers. She said the subliminal message of the photos was that women are either hysterical, as in one ad that showed a woman scared by a window cockroach, or that they fall easily into the arms of a waiting man, like the commercial for Lunch. Other ads showed women as sexual temptresses, as in the Rosemarie chocolate ad which shows a model putting a finger in her mouth "in the same action that can be found in pornographic magazines. When they are not portrayed this way, they can be found deep in infantile reflection on cleaning products," Hoffman said. Hoffman said the commercials all violated the law which bans Channel 2 franchise owners from displaying sexual hints or harming human dignity. Representatives from advertising agencies and Channel 2 companies rejected Hoffman's claims and said the public did not see the ads the way she did. They said there needs to be very solid grounds for a commercial to be banned. Aylet Metzger, director of advertising for the Second Television and Radio Authority, told the committee that some 2 percent of commercials had been banned since Channel 2 was established. "[But] it has not yet been unequivocally established that subliminal messages do influence the public." Representatives from women's groups asked that commercials over which there is even an element of doubt about harming women or encouraging violence be removed from the screens without waiting for complaints from the public, which for the most part is passive about responding. "We have come a long way since five years ago when women were seen tied up or in handcuffs," said Dayan, but she asked for greater cooperation between the advertisers, Channel 2 and the committee.

The invasion of the 'soul snatchers'

Haredi leader threatens more demonstrations in Tel Aviv

YESTERDAY'S demonstration at the Tel Aviv Fairgrounds by thousands of haredim against the Supreme Court and the desecration of Shabbat in the city left most Tel Avivians indifferent. Others who deigned, reluctantly, to lay down their espresso cups to comment thought it was an outrage to try to impose haredi customs from Jerusalem on Tel Aviv. Everyone commended Mayor Ronni Milo, who told the haredim off and promised not to change anything in the city's liberal way of life. Jerusalem may be the holy city, some said, but Tel Aviv is freedom city. "It reminds me of that movie, *The Invasion of the Body Snatchers*, except these are soul snatchers. They're missionaries who want to snatch our souls and drive us all back to the ghetto and the Middle Ages," Esther Levy said. "By the way, isn't missionary activity forbidden by law?" "Tel Aviv will not become Bnei Brak or Mea She'arim," declared Ilan Noy. "Anyone who thinks it will simply does not understand

the essence of freedom or life here." "As one who lived off Sheinkin [Street] for many years, I can tell you that we lived in peace and harmony with the haredim in the neighborhood," Mitzi Oron said. "These people from Jerusalem who call themselves religious should concentrate on being human beings, rather than forcing their dubious values on others." "Look, these people have hundreds of thousands of healthy young thugs, who evade military service and live at our expense and have nothing better to do than to come here to impose their distorted norms on others," Yaki Lowenstein said. "What a nerve they have, coming to Tel Aviv, the bastion of freedom and sanity." "It's awful. It's like going back to Iran, what can I tell you, said Shosh Elkana. "On the other hand, they have a right to demonstrate, just like we do. However, just think how they would scream bloody murder if thou-

sands of secular people took to the streets to demonstrate against having no public transport and closing down businesses on Shabbat?" "The trouble is that since the elections they've become power-intoxicated, driven by an insatiable greed for more power," said Yoram Yardeni. "In Jerusalem, they have a spineless mayor like Ehud Olmert, who sold his soul to the haredim in the municipality and lets them run amuck. Now they've discovered Tel Aviv. Where have they been living until now?" "They don't even know that Dizengoff, which they hold as the center of Sabbath violation, is long passe and today Sheinkin represents modern, liberal society." "The way I see it," another Tel Avivian said, "the fish stinks from the head. When you have a prime minister who doesn't care about human rights, whether it's Palestinians, women or the secular majority, then the fundamentalists go wild."

Yosef (Tommy) Lapid, a senior *Ma'ariv* columnist, *Popolitika* panelist, and staunch Tel Avivian, said on Educational Television's *Erev Hadash*: "When they come to Tel Aviv, they will be like aliens. Yes, they're from another planet. Our children will think it's Purim." "What they're doing is aggressive, intrusive invasion. When someone passes in their street on Shabbat, they claim it's theirs and everyone must act like them. Now they want to enforce their ways on our streets." "What they don't understand is that being secular is a deep faith in human dignity and human rights, as deep their belief in the Jewish religion. The liberal way of life respects the individual and doesn't worship some rabbi who issues [blessings] on notes..." "What we're witnessing now is a passing wave of world fundamentalism, which will fade away and vanish. In one generation they'll be a small minority like they were 40 years ago, when we kept them in a museum. I promise you, we'll keep them in a museum then, too."

TEL AVIV residents should get used to large haredi demonstrations in their midst, because last night's rally was only the beginning, said Agudat Yisrael elder leader Menahem Porush. Porush said the problem of Shabbat desecration is not unique to Tel Aviv, the city Mayor Ronni Milo called the City of Freedom, but that in recent months the situation there has become "intolerable." "In the last few months more and more Jews have begun working in Tel Aviv on Shabbat," he said. "We will do everything to change this situation. We will use all the means at our disposal. This [the demonstration] is only the first step." Porush said the demonstration is not just an attempt to fulfill what many haredim view as a religious obligation - to chastise people for Shabbat desecration - but is indeed the beginning of a campaign to stem the country's secular tide. He did not accept the premise that it would be impossible to close the cafe and entertainment spots operating on Rehov Sheinkin

on Shabbat. The focus of Agudat Yisrael's new campaign is the legal system which, according to Porush, has allowed breaches in the status quo that has so long governed religious-secular affairs. "Even under the British Mandate cinemas in the country were closed [on Shabbat]," Porush said. "Then Judge Procaccia came along and destroyed the foundations. We see this as very grave." Porush's anger was directed at Judge Ayala Procaccia, who as a Jerusalem Magistrate's Court judge in 1987 ruled that the Jerusalem by-laws prohibiting the operating of cinemas on Shabbat, or any other activity on that day, were illegal. This ruling was a landmark decision that led to a change in Shabbat activities in Jerusalem and in other cities around the country. The courts, Porush said, have overstepped their bounds. Asked why the demonstration was held in Tel Aviv, if the issue is nationwide, Porush said: "Tel Aviv is central. More people will be able to get there."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Boy dies in fall from building
A 15-year-old Ashdod boy was killed yesterday when he fell from the roof of his eight-story apartment building while trying to get into his home through a window. A neighbor whom the boy, Niv Miles, had asked for help suggested they get a locksmith, but he told her he would manage on his own. He then tied a laundry line to a solar water heater on the roof, but the line broke as he slid down to the window. Friends said he often got into the home that way, and had warned him it was dangerous. The neighbors heard him fall, and alerted Magen David Adom, whose personnel brought him to Sheba Hospital. However, he died before he got there. *Itim*

Woman holds up Bat Yam bank
A woman held up the Sderot Ha'atzmaut branch of Bank Hapoalim in Bat Yam yesterday. The woman, about 45, entered the bank, gave the teller a note reading: "This is a stick-up," waved a gun, and fled with NIS 1,700. No one was hurt in the robbery. *Itim*

Reuma Weizman heads campaign to rid nation of dangerous dogs

REUMA Weizman has decided to launch a campaign to rid the country of ferocious dogs that attack innocent people. In an unusual step, the president's wife yesterday took the floor at the closing session of the Local Councils' Union seminar at Beit Hanassi, to appeal to all municipalities to ban the dogs. "I read with horror the latest story of an attack by vicious dogs on two Rehovot children, Alona, aged 10 and her 3-year-old brother, and how their neighbor, Tikva, came to their help and saved them from what could have been death," Weizman said. "I have wanted to do something about this for a long time but kept thinking that there would be an end to this. I'm sorry to see I was wrong." Turning to the council heads, she pleaded: "Please do something about this." Weizman recalled how shocked she had been during a visit to Kaplan Hospital several months ago when doctors showed her an elderly man in serious condition. He had been mauled while saving a boy from the fangs of a ferocious attack dog. Local council union head Adi Eldar promised to try to take action.

Ottoman art exhibit goes on display

OVER 200 items embracing every aspect of Ottoman art and spanning nearly six centuries, from the collection of Nasser D. Khalili of London, goes on view at the Israel Museum this evening. Entitled "Empire of the Sultans" and previously seen in Geneva and London, the show comprises calligraphy, decorated manuscripts, Korans, metal work, fabulously decorated arms and armor, ceramics, textiles and scientific instruments. It will remain open until June 1. *Meir Ronnen*

Postage stamp honors disabled

A postage stamp whose theme is equal opportunities for the disabled will be issued today. The first-day cover envelope for the NIS 5 stamp has text written in Braille in three languages. It was designed by Dan Reisinger, who created the theme in memory of his disabled uncle, who was murdered in the Holocaust due to his handicap. *Judy Siegel*

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מכרזים לתשלום

Court rejects Serbian election appeal

PETER GRESTE
Belgrade

A COURT yesterday rejected demands for new elections by Serbian opposition parties who are waging street protests against President Slobodan Milosevic after accusing his ruling socialists of vote rigging.

The Democratic Party, a member of the Zajedno (Together) coalition, said Belgrade's first municipal court rejected the opposition's claim that the socialists defrauded it of victory in the capital during local elections last month.

The ruling closed off a possible compromise between Milosevic and Zajedno and heightened fears of imminent police intervention as more than 100,000 students and opposition supporters staged a 17th day of demonstrations.

A verdict in Zajedno's favour would have allowed both sides to fight a deciding round of elections and reduced growing Western pressure on Milosevic.

The court said there could be no appeal against its decision and Zajedno legal expert Mirko Mihajlovic acknowledged: "Not much more is to be expected from the regular legal procedure."

The socialists, whose rule in Yugoslavia has been unbroken since World War II, overturned Zajedno victories in the November 17 elections and claimed they won a rerun of the ballot.

Former Yugoslav foreign minister Ilija Djukic, now in opposition, warned time was running out for a peaceful end to the sterner challenge Milosevic has faced since he took power nine years ago.

Protesting students added the closure of Belgrade's independent B-92 radio station, to halt its live



Opposition leaders Vuk Draskovic (right), Vesna Pesic (center) and Zoran Djindjic protest against Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic in Belgrade yesterday. A court rejected opposition demands for new elections. (Reuters)

coverage of their demonstrations, to their grievances as they marched.

The students, chanting support for Radio B-92, were led by girls carrying loaves of bread, which in Serbia represent a symbol of brotherhood, but were unsuccessful in their attempt to hand them to

parliament.

Djukic, a Democratic Party leader who has joined in the marches, said the opposition feared that shutting down B-92's transmitter on Tuesday could be a prelude to the use of force for the first time in the conflict.

B-92's reports on the demonstrations, which have attracted up to 100,000 people a day, contrasted with the silence of the state media which has concentrated on attacking the opposition.

"These are critical days because the time for a reasonable solution is running out," Djukic told Reuters. "The most tragic thing is

that this situation could lead us into open repression."

The demonstrations began as an attempt to overturn the election results but have grown into an attempt to topple Milosevic and his one-party rule in Yugoslavia. (Reuters)

Zairean rebels kill, capture Rwandan Hutu leaders

BUCHIZYA MSETEKA
Nairobi

ZAIREAN rebels have either killed or captured and sent back to Rwanda most commanders in the 45,000-strong Hutu army of the previous Rwandan government, a Hutu politician said yesterday.

Seth Sendashonga, a former minister in Rwanda's Tutsi-led government now in exile in Kenya, told Reuters the rebels also killed many senior Hutu politicians who served in Rwanda's last government before Rwandan Tutsi rebels seized Kigali in 1994.

An exiled Hutu lobby group - the Rally for the Return of Refugees and Democracy in Rwanda (RDR) - said yesterday five other prominent Hutus were killed in rebel attacks in eastern Zaire and many were missing.

"That [Hutu] army has been completely destroyed. Surviving troops are roaming the jungle of Zaire without a command structure and without a political or military objective. The objectives of the Rwandan government have been achieved," Sendashonga said in a telephone interview.

In October the Zairean rebels seized the Zairean border towns of Bukavu, Uvira and Kamanyola, where the commanders and politicians had been living in exile.

He added: "Many more were captured by the rebels, who then turned them over to Rwanda where they are now under arrest."

The Rwandan authorities are likely to try them for their role in the genocide of 1994, when Hutu militants killed about one million Tutsis and moderate Hutus.

Sendashonga, a highly respected Hutu politician and intellectual, said the Hutu army commander, Maj.-Gen. Augustin Bizimungu, abandoned his forces in Goma and fled to the Zairean capital Kinshasa.

The whereabouts of Bizimungu's deputy, Brig.-Gen. Gratien Kabiligi, remain unknown, Sendashonga said. Kabiligi was in charge of operations for the exiled army. (Reuters)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Grenade blast kills 7 in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India (AP) - A grenade exploded at a public rally for a newly elected communist lawmaker yesterday, killing seven people and injuring 40, officials said.

Police blamed Kashmiri militants, but there was no claim of responsibility and no arrests were made.

The lawmaker, Mohammed Yusuf Tarigami, said he escaped with bruises. He said militants fired gunshots and then hurled a grenade after he bid goodbye to the 4,000-strong crowd in Kulgam, 70 kilometers south of Srinagar, summer capital of Jammu-Kashmir state.

Dozens of separatist groups in Kashmir want the state to break away from India. Jammu-Kashmir is the only Moslem-majority state in predominantly independent India. More than 14,500 people have been killed since the insurrection began in 1989.

Bomb explodes outside Karachi hotel

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP) - A powerful bomb exploded yesterday along the street from a five-star hotel frequented by tourists to this southern port city.

Twelve people were injured, four of them critically, authorities said. They said dozens of received minor injuries from flying glass, but none of them were hospitalized.

The bomb was planted in a flower bed outside an eight-story office building, located across the street from the Sheraton Hotel, said Moeen Uddin, of the police bomb disposal squad.

This was the second explosion in Pakistan in as many days. At least 80 people have been killed in bomb explosions in Punjab province in recent months.

Argentina ups reward for info on bombings

BUENOS AIRES (Reuters) - Argentina this week raised to \$3 million the reward it is offering for information on two bomb attacks on its large Jewish community in 1992 and 1994, which killed a total of 115 people.

Interior Minister Carlos Corach announced a \$1 million, or 50 percent, raise in the Protection Fund Against International Terrorism to pay a "reward for whoever helps clear up the terrorist attacks against the Israeli Embassy and the AMIA."

A car-bomb attack on the AMIA Jewish community center in Buenos Aires in July 1994 killed 86 people, injured hundreds more and reduced the building to rubble. Two years earlier, a bomb blast at the embassy killed 29 people.

No arrests have been made for the 1992 bombing. A dealer in stolen cars and four policemen have been indicted for allegedly providing the vehicle used in the 1994 attack, but the bombers themselves have not been found.

Stephanopoulos to teach at Columbia

NEW YORK (AP) - George Stephanopoulos, one of President Clinton's closest advisers, said yesterday he will teach political science at Columbia University after leaving the White House early next year.

"It's the right time to take a break," said Stephanopoulos, 35, at a news conference at the university. He said Clinton "has been very supportive."

He will be a visiting professor on a two-year appointment beginning in January, but will not begin classroom work until the fall, when he plans to lead a seminar, to be followed in the spring of 1998 by a lecture class.

1996 a boom year for British tourism

LONDON (Reuters) - Britain is attracting increasing numbers of tourists as its reputation as a center of style and culture grows, the government said yesterday.

The latest figures for 1996 from the Department of National Heritage for 1996 show a surge of 11% in overall visitors to 20.4 million and a 7% increase in spending compared to the same period last year.

Albright favored as new US secretary of state

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - UN Ambassador Madeleine Albright emerged yesterday as President Bill Clinton's top choice for secretary of state as administration officials said Clinton was close to picking his new foreign policy team.

Albright, who would be the first woman to occupy such a senior US post, was described by one official as "the leading candidate" to succeed Warren Christopher, who plans to step down when Clinton starts his second term in January.

But as speculation swirled in Washington over Clinton's selection for this and other key cabinet posts, the White House cautioned that he had not made a final decision and no announcement was expected later yesterday.

One government source said Albright, 59, whose main office is at the United Nations headquarters in New York, spent more than three hours at the White House on Tuesday evening and was in Washington yesterday.

Another official said Albright's selection could still be affected by the final shape of Clinton's foreign policy team. "He's close to signing off on all of the posts, but that isn't complete," the official said.

The official said Anthony Lake, the White House national security adviser, is likely to leave his post - possibly to become director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

The current CIA director, John Deutch, most likely would be offered another cabinet post, the official said - stressing that "one job affects another."

Swiss turned back at least 30,000 refugees in WW II

ZURICH (Reuters) - Neutral Switzerland turned back at least 30,000 refugees seeking asylum during World War II, triple the number previously acknowledged, researchers said yesterday.

The report by the Swiss Federal Archive and the Federal Bureau for Refugees cast new light on Switzerland's controversial wartime history and highlighted an era that many historians see as the country's darkest hour.

"Swiss authorities turned away more than 30,000 refugees - 24,400 directly on the border and 14,500 asylum seekers who filed requests from abroad for permission to enter," the Swiss Federal Archive said in a statement.

The numbers do not add up because many people whose first petitions were rejected tried to cross into Switzerland anyway. The study confirmed Switzerland took in 230,000 refugees, but its figures for those turned away go far beyond the figure of 10,000 cited in an official 1957 review of the country's wartime asylum practice.

Investigators examined 45,000 refugee dossiers from 1936 to 1946 in order to compile a record for more research and to answer a request from the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem for names of Jews who had been turned away.

They also reviewed the practices of border guards and delved into the records of border cantons for more insights because civil and military authorities destroyed most of the lists of rejected refugees after the war.

"Federal authorities' policy of deterrence was echoed at the cantonal level. Border units in direct contact with German authorities sought to prevent Jewish refugees from entering and...handed over refugees to French and German border police in France," it said in a summary of its findings.

"However, Switzerland took in around 230,000 refugees, including 22,000 Jews, on the basis of humanitarian considerations and international obligations," it added.

Switzerland remained neutral but not untouched by the rise of the Nazis and their fascist allies in neighboring Germany, Austria, Italy and France and the following waves of Jews seeking to escape genocide.

Guatemala takes step toward peace with cease-fire accord

OSLO (AP) - After 36 years of fighting and 140,000 deaths, Guatemala's adversaries signed a permanent truce yesterday in Central America's longest civil war.

Even as Guatemalans at home and at Oslo's city hall celebrated the signing, troubling questions remained over how to rebuild trust and forgive atrocities in a country where most people were born into war.

"All we remember is war," said Guatemalan Indian Rigoberta Menchu, who accepted the Nobel Peace Prize in the same Oslo building in 1992.

She told a crowd of about 1,000 people gathered for the signing that the future was bright but that "we must also remember those who dreamed of peace but never got to see the day it came."

Only justice, fairness, democracy and respect by all for agreements can guarantee that peace, she said.

The Oslo cease-fire is one of three partial agreements leading up to a final peace accord the sides hope to sign in Guatemala City. Key issues, such as amnesty for soldiers and rebels, remain to be settled in upcoming talks.

Except for a guerrilla insurgency in Colombia, the Guatemala conflict was Latin America's longest civil war.

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Beware The Bible rewritten - for children

contractor's 'No problem'

CAVEAT EMPTOR!
RUTHIE BLUM

The following is a tale of woe. It is the story of how a consumer columnist was put to a test - to put her proverbial money where her big mouth is - and failed quite miserably. It is the story of my recent move to an apartment building, still under construction, and of falling prey to falling between the cracks.

Cutting corners on architect's fees, the contractor (and in this case, landlord as well) built the building as he went along, rather than working according to a blueprint. Aside from leading to peculiarities in the layout of the apartments, this frugality also led to a slew of other problems relating to infrastructure.

"Infrastructure" is the key to the smooth routine of day-to-day life which most of us take for granted while focusing on other matters, such as overdraft and Oslo. And as I came, unhappily, to learn, without "infrastructure," neither water, electricity, gas, telephone, nor cable TV is accessible.

Contractors know this even better than columnists. The contractor of my building knows this. He also knows how to flash a sexy white smile while hying through his teeth - an accomplishment which pays off handsomely, judging by the villa in which he dwells with his bejeweled wife, Benetton-clad children, and live-in Filipina.

It was thus that I was bamboozled into believing that on the day I was to move, there would be "no problem" where Pzagas, Bezeq, Arntzei Zahav, and others were concerned. Having received written confirmation from the phone company that my line would indeed be transferred to the new location on the date of my request, I felt confident that all would be well.

Or at least that I'd be able to phone for help if it was!

Since it would take about a year's worth of columns to regurgitate the entire "tragedy" of errors which ensued since that date, I would like to zero in on the "contractor vs. Bezeq" segment, for comic relief.

November 4: Fax request for phone transfer is confirmed by Bezeq.

November 5: Friend renting an apartment in the same building informs of rumor that above contractor hasn't prepared proper infrastructure for phones. Immediate interrogation of said contractor by yours truly receives following response: "It's all settled now. The guy from Bezeq was just here, and gave the OK."

November 6: Phone call to Bezeq to confirm contractor's assertion. Bezeq responds: "We were there, all right. But the contractor still hasn't completed his end of the job. Until he does, we can't install phones."

Phone call to contractor, who doesn't answer his cell-phone.

November 7: Moving day. No phone. Contractor flashes pearly whites. Insists that phone infrastructure is now complete.

Call from public phone to Bezeq. Same response as previous: "No infrastructure, no phones!"

November 8: Physical call to contractor. No answer. Finally, hysterical call to Bezeq. "Somebody do something!" Nobody does anything.

November 9: Meet contractor in staircase, all Cheesecake-gum. "It's not my fault, blame Bezeq," he says.

Another call to Bezeq. "It's not our fault, blame the contractor," says Bezeq.

November 22: Friday morning. Contractor's day off. Bezeq technician's day off. Still no phone.

At this point I enter the apartment of a friend who lives in the neighborhood. I phone Bezeq and yell for a half an hour.

"There's nothing we can do," I'm told.

The electrician hired by the contractor was supposed to have finished the wiring and then to have informed us. He failed to do both. Furthermore, Bezeq technicians are at home on Fridays.

"Then get them out of their homes!" I lose it totally. "It's not Bezeq's fault that the contractor is a liar and a crook," I say, "but I am your client. I pay my phone bills to you. If you know what the electrical problem is, just send somebody to fix it - on the double! Friday or no Friday."

That afternoon, a Bezeq technician miraculously appeared. He took out a small tool, inserted it into the socket in my wall, yanked at the cord inside of the wall until it emerged, and *voila* - there was a dial tone.

For this minuscule job I had to wait over two weeks!

The moral of this pathetic story is that even Bezeq will get a technician to work on his day off - even if the source of the problem is not technically its fault - if we demand action and mean it. (Though, admittedly, if I had demanded the same action a week earlier, I might have been less successful.)

Regarding the contractor-cum-landlord to whom I must now pay monthly rent (heaven help me): It's a good thing the lawyer who wrote my lease included a clause awarding me \$100-a-day deduction from my rent, for every day that the apartment is not equipped with a long list of things - infrastructure included.

Now the contractor will have to sue me, rather than me him, if he wants more money.

You are invited to offer personal stories about goods and services in this country. Write to: Ruthie Blum, POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem.

Correction

The photo of Mary Douglas in yesterday's edition was by Erwin Schenkelbach.

There are several things that distinguish Pitspopy Press's *Jewish Children's Bible* from other Jewish children's Bibles, says Pitspopy Press general manager Ya'acov Petersell.

First, there is the fact that they have used the Hebrew text instead of the English King James Bible as the basis for their five-book version - the first of which came out in September.

In addition, they have included a section of midrashim at the back of the book, so that parents and children can discuss the meaning of the stories in more depth. And lastly, they have included stories which most children's Bibles - both Jewish and Christian - tend to ignore, such as the story of Hagar.

"Most of the other Jewish children's Bibles on the market have one major problem: They don't deal with all the stories, and they are not age-appropriate. Very few children's Bibles deal with the story of Hagar and she is a very important character," said Petersell, sitting in his downtown Jerusalem office from where he directs the operation of Pitspopy Press, an English-language publishing house which sells Jewish children's books, mainly in the US. "They also don't deal with the battle of Shechem and Simeon and Levi. We have to deal with this story, but very carefully so as not to scare the children."

Without delving into the rape of Dinah by the son of King Hamor of Shechem, the Children's Bible author - well-known children's writer Sheryl Prenzlau - tells how the son, Prince Shechem, captures Jacob's daughter Dinah and wants to marry her, but Jacob doesn't want to allow it. The book explains that after convinc-

JUDITH SUDILOVSKY

ing the men of Shechem the only way they will be able to marry their women is by being circumcised, Simeon and Levi go into the city to rescue their sister and kill all the male residents.

When there was a question about a fact, or logic, in certain stories, Prenzlau used the commentary by Rashi to keep the stories consistent with Jewish tradition, said Petersell.

Still, Petersell admits, they could not include every Bible story in their version either, but he is confident they have covered most of the stories which children in their target audience of six- to nine-year-olds can understand, and also which can be properly illustrated.

The illustrations were so important to them that they used three illustrators: Zely Smekhov, Daniel Goldberg, and Lena Guberman - all of whom, like Prenzlau, live here. The illustrations finally used in the book were first approved by a test audience of children - including Petersell's own, as well as those of Pitspopy's production manager Chaim Mazo.

In the introduction to their Genesis, they explain how they consciously decided to portray all the Bible characters in vivid color, because trying to hide the faces of the characters would have been "too contrived." For example, they said, it would have been impossible to show the meeting of Jacob with his son Joseph after many decades of separation without showing the emotion on their faces. Yet all the illustrations maintain an integrity to the religious appearance of the characters, noted Petersell. All men wear head coverings, and

all the women are dressed modestly.

For some people who grew up seeing pictures of a young Isaac about to be sacrificed, the illustration in this children's Bible may appear a bit strange. The illustration shows a grown man following Abraham as he takes his son up to an altar. But this is a truer depiction of the event, said Petersell - according to the Bible, Isaac was actually 37 years old when God told Abraham to sacrifice him.

"The problem is that people start reading the King James version and other non-Jewish versions and those ideas seep into the Jewish world," he said.

Another example is the story of Jacob's ladder. In most illustrations the angels climb up and down on the same ladder. But in this version, they were careful to be faithful to the actual text which describes how the angels climbed down one ladder and up the other, said Petersell.

"This series is based on the philosophy that a children's book should be usable for everybody from Reform and Conservative, to Orthodox Jews. Everybody should be able to get what they want from the Bible," said Petersell. "We are trying not to be didactic but we are also trying to be as true to the textual writing as possible."

For example, he said, any reference to God in this children's Bible is not-gender specific. God is simply referred to as "God."

"It may seem like a small thing, but most Reform or Conservative Jews would not accept a book that has a male figure of God," said Petersell. "It's a matter of being sensitized to their needs."

Trying to market English-language Jewish children's books to



A page from Pitspopy Press's *Jewish Children's Bible*.

the US from Israel is not always an easy endeavor, but Petersell credits Pitspopy's success to the fact that it launches books in series. Another recent group title they launched is the *10 Best*, which now includes *10 Best Jewish Children's Stories* and *10 Traditional Jewish Children's Stories*. Another book in the series based on 10 Hasidic stories is due out soon.

Petersell expects the other four books of the *Jewish Children's Bible* to be on the market by March 1998. Though 95 percent of their business is done in the US, Pitspopy Press books are also marketed in Israel through Sefer ve-Sefel in Jerusalem.

Image is everything, when fooling Mother Nature

FLAIR
GREER FAY CASHMAN

CHANGING images is what the cosmetics, fragrance, and toiletries industries are all about. Since time immemorial they have existed to disguise our flaws, to almost magically enhance our features, and, in short, to improve the work of Mother Nature.

Through their very purpose, change has come to the industries themselves, with smoother and sometimes more effective creams, and lotions; backwards and forwards drifts between cream, powder, crayon and liquid make-up bases, lipsticks, blushers and eyeshadows; pencil vs. liquid eyeliner, cakey vs. fluid mascara and matte vs. shine finish.

Older women who've witnessed these evolutions and revolutions have more or less seen it all. The colors and the textures which go out of style at the end of one season come back three seasons, 10 seasons, maybe 15 seasons later. The rainbow choices in nail varnish which may be exciting to the under-20 age group are not unknown to their mothers and grandmothers, who've been through the blue and green fingernail phenomenon themselves, and who in many cases have had purple, green, copper and bright pink streaks running through their hair.

Today's products may be more refined, but the concepts behind them are the same - to either shock or seduce, or maybe both, depending on what turns someone on. Fragrances too have run the gamut from



Hibiscus seed and mimosa blossom create the scent of Guerlain's jaunty new Champs-Elysees. But it's not quite the same as the perfumer's classic scents.

light floral bouquets through to heavy, enveloping clouds of exotica.

But although the perfumes titillated our nostrils in different ways, certain types of scents were identifiable with certain companies.

There was always an air of class and a sense of mystique about Guerlain, Estee Lander, Oscar de la Renta, Givenchy, Chanel, and several other leading brands, which in some cases is wafting away.

Guerlain makes no secret of the fact that it is currently courting the liberated renaissance woman whose life is played without a script. Its new jaunty and audacious Champs-Elysees fragrance comes as a complete surprise to those who are familiar with Guerlain's Ysis or Samsara, which are far more dramatic. Based on hibiscus seed and almond wood, the heart of Champs-Elysees is mimosa blossom and buddleia and its floral top notes are formu-

lated from mimosa leaves, rose petals, blackcurrant berries and almond blossom. The combination, though quite pleasant, somehow doesn't fit the Guerlain image. But if it catches on, past history will make no difference.

Packaging is a major factor in the image game, the philosophy being that what grabs the eye may excite some of the other senses as well. The packaging does not necessarily have to be fancy to achieve its target. Sometimes its very plainness and simplicity, as Calvin Klein has already proved, makes it attractive.

Take for instance Tommy, the new American fragrance for men produced by fashion designer Tommy Hilfinger. The unadorned bottle which looks like a miniature whiskey flask, comes in a plain, silver-colored tin of the kind that men once used to carry their snuff or tobacco. The image it conveys is rugged but clean. The fragrance itself also conjures up a sense of crisp, unfrilled cleanliness, which is perhaps a necessity in an era of novo-punk.

And if we're reminiscing about revivals of former fads, Barbara Wolf is flogging a new, light, waterproof eyeliner which supposedly improves the shape of the eyes - a somewhat difficult feat since one can hardly see it.

Several years ago, cosmetics companies looking for a good gimmick for suckers, came out with a reverse psychology version of the emperor's new clothes - invisible mascara and eyeliner for those women who wanted to wear make-up without looking artificial.

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Belgrade's time for change

ENLIGHTENED self-interest in politics often achieves more positive results than wishful thinking. Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic demonstrated as much when, after too much bloodshed, he decided it was in his best interests finally to disentangle himself from the mess he helped initiate in the Balkans. There has always been a suspicion that Milosevic's idea of Greater Serbia itself contained a large element of self interest in that it followed the well-known pattern of a "foreign" adventure being used to consolidate his own power. That delusion has at last come back to haunt him as he faces a popular revolt not seen in eastern Europe since the fall of communism.

With the Bosnian war at least stalled by NATO's forceful intervention, Milosevic stands exposed for what he is - an old-time communist clinging to dictatorial powers in the face of popular demands in the former Yugoslavia for more democracy. It has been a futile mythology that all ethnic Serbs in Bosnia, Serbia, Croatia, and probably Macedonia, could create a united Serb nation across the borders and against the will of their neighbors. It now seems it may have been equally futile for Milosevic to think that this dream could for ever hide the reality of the grim dictatorship of old apparatchiks he heads in what is left of the former Yugoslavia - now more accurately, though not officially, known simply as Serbia.

Trailblazer

AMID the gloom of the world's problems, tensions and end-of-century uncertainties, it is refreshing to see one aspect of the human spirit that refuses to bow to adversity. It is the spirit of adventure exemplified by the continuing space program, which once again made the headlines yesterday with the launch of the United States Pathfinder mission to Mars.

In fact, the space exploration effort has been nudging its way out of obscurity on several fronts this week as up-front news reports covered the Mars launch, the technical glitches which failed to halt the enterprising astronauts on the Shuttle mission, and the intriguing discovery that water may exist at the south pole of the earth's otherwise arid moon.

the government moved against independent broadcasters who insisted on informing the public.

Dictators unfailingly miscalculate the effect of their edicts issued in the face of popular revolt and so it was Milosevic's decision on Monday to silence Radio B-92 that sparked international outrage as the mask was taken from the true face of the Belgrade dictators. The European Union has rightly expressed its "dismay" at the Serb authorities' determination to ignore calls from the international community for the full observance of international democratic principles. Radio B-92's transmitter was switched off on a spurious charge of illegality and the student Radio Index was also knocked off the air.

If Milosevic thinks old-fashioned communist tricks are going to save him from the democratic climate swirling around him, it is to be hoped he will be proved badly mistaken. Yet the Belgrade authorities may be able to benefit from the experience of the other communist era dictators from Moscow to Bulgaria and the Czech Republic, who were forced to cede power to popular revolt. The idea that he can avoid their "mistakes" may provide some temporary relief for Milosevic.

It is a relief which the international community must make as brief and uncomfortable as possible. Both the United States and Europe have issued clear warnings to Milosevic that severe retribution will follow if his regime resorts to violence against the peaceful demonstrators. It is a timely warning and it must be impressed on Belgrade that it is a deadly serious one. Violence from the Serb authorities would hardly be a novelty. The international community has a clear obligation to ensure they do not resort to it again, and if they do, the most painful sanctions must be invoked. Milosevic must be made to realize that there is no place in Europe for any state whose people do not have complete freedom and democracy.

MANDELBAUM GATE

In the psycho-political war which will decide the fate of Jerusalem, the government of Israel should construct a major memorial commemorating the tragedy of the Mandelbaum Gate.

As the years pass, fewer and fewer people, including Jews, remember the harshness and cruelty of the division of Jerusalem prior to the 1967 war, or even the name of the Mandelbaum Gate.

WOMEN OF THE WALL

can only be left to the truly "religious." Writing over 60 years ago, Rabbi Mordechai Kaplan talked about American Jews' need to live in two civilizations simultaneously - to live an American as well as a Jewish life. Ironically that analysis and charge hold true for Israel today, where individuals are segregated into either Israeli or Jewish camps.

GRATUITOUS ADVICE

Perhaps British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind and Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring should stop giving gratuitous advice to Israel's government and rather direct their vaunted peace-making abilities towards joint resolution of the long, bloody conflict between Britain and Ulster.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Parity democracy, as it is becoming known, where women are in the legislatures in numbers virtually equal to the men, is the last great frontier of democracy. Unless the majority gender helps direct the future of its communities, life will continue to be uncertain, out of kilter, improperly planned - and an affront to civilization itself. I urge all the political parties to aim for 50/50 women on their lists, and equally I urge women in huge numbers to take that big step forward and put their names into the ring for elected office.



OLEG 96

High and low life with Arafat

PAULA Haavistola is the American-born wife of the man who pilots Yasser Arafat's private jet.

She described her husband's flight crew as "a bunch of stinking liars and thieves" after he took court action in Dallas, Texas, to force the PLO leader to pay up \$33,500 in outstanding salary. "We spent a total of \$10,000 of our own money to get a Texan judge on November 22 to issue a bond to ground the plane until the debt was paid," Haavistola told us from her home in Maryland. "The plane has been at Dallas since August for renovation costing \$1.2 million."

"Do you mean to tell me that they cannot find \$33,500 to pay my husband?" she asked.

Lauri Haavistola has piloted Arafat's plane, a four-engine Lockheed Jet Star 2, for the past two years, logging 205 flights. The plane was a personal gift to the PLO leader from Saddam Hussein.

"I quickly began to see what a hazardous business being Arafat's pilot would be," said Paula. "He had a flight crew of five men, including two so-called copilots, Omar Halim and Ziad Bara. "Lauri kept telling me how dangerous it was to be aboard that plane. The two PLO "expert" flyers weren't even capable of starting up the aircraft."

Haavistola told his wife hair-raising stories of negligence. "Once," she recalls, "heading for Paris, he warned his copilots repeatedly that they were running out of fuel and had to land. They refused. It was a case of Inshallah - what was meant to happen, will happen." It was, apparently, a miracle that the plane reached its destination. Haavistola told his wife there had been only enough fuel left for five minutes in the air.

"The crew were a gang of thieves," she went on. "Every time they stopped in hotels in Europe or elsewhere they would steal towels, sheets, silverware and anything else that wasn't tied down. "They would forge restaurant and hotel receipts; the whole thing was incredible. "When we were in Geneva at the Movenpick Hotel or at the Maurice in Paris, I was astonished at their looting. "They then went shopping like millionaires. Back in Cairo each has his own smart Mercedes. "Haavistola relates that the crew members tried to persuade her husband to fill out phony documents for spare parts for the aircraft. "Naturally he refused. I tried so hard to get him to quit," she said.

URI DAN DENNIS EISENBERG

"But he is 57 now. He lost his job in the great shakeout in American aviation... We were stuck for the money, even to pay the \$1,000 dollars a month for our mortgage, so he hung onto the job. Haavistola, his wife said, was unpopular with the airplane crew when he pointed out mechanical things that needed attention. "They did all they could to avoid such repairs so they could pocket the cash for such expenses themselves. She flew to Cairo in November

The wife of the American who piloted the PLO leader's private jet for two years has a startling story to tell

"to ask Arafat's ambassador there for Lauri's money." She told us that while there she didn't mince her words.

"What is more," she told him, "your flight crew are a bunch of thieves. They are robbing the Palestinian people, looting European hotels and presenting false expense accounts. They are also stealing American money, as the US is giving our tax money to the Palestinian cause."

The ambassador, she says, was genuinely shocked. "He apologized and promised to report my complaint to Arafat, whom he was meeting in Norway the following day."

"He called from Oslo to say Arafat would personally ensure that the money was paid 'in a day or two.' But it turned out to be just another lie... That's why, in desperation, we went to court in Dallas, where the plane was undergoing routine servicing."

"The very next day," she said, "Adnan Ali Sa'adi" (one of Arafat's most trusted aides, security chief and flight commander) warned Lauri that he "had better tell that wife of yours to shut her big mouth."

"He then called me and demanded: 'How dare you call us thieves? Because you are thieves, I replied. "Later he asked Lauri to return to Cairo to work for them. "Leave your wife behind," Sa'adi suggested. "We will find you another one."

HAAVISTOLA continues:

"When we went to court the crew lied. They claimed the plane belonged to Air Algeria. True it was so registered, but it is Arafat's private property. For that perjury I would like them to all be imprisoned."

"They also sought diplomatic immunity, but were told that you can't do that for a plane and its crew."

"The most ironic part of it was that the crew arrived in Dallas with \$100,000 in cash for living expenses," Haavistola, a highly skilled paramedic trained in Pittsburgh, was asked by one of Arafat's top aides to go to Gaza and train local doctors and nurses how to run an emergency medical service.

"Although I was ill at the time I agreed in order to help in such a humanitarian project," she said.

"I was horrified to see the inefficient, haphazard and unhygienic conditions in which they practiced. When I tried to make changes and introduce professional methods they insulted me with such venom that I left immediately for Israel and caught an El Al flight to Cairo."

"Never mind that they never paid me the promised fee; they also refused to reimburse the \$400 I spent out of my own savings to get to Gaza."

"This seems to be the attitude of the organization run by Yasser Arafat, who - I learned about from CNN - has a vast personal fortune of over one billion dollars skimmed from his terrorist activities, including plane hijacking."

"I was told in Gaza that 20 percent of the money donated by countries all over the West to help the poor Palestinians in the Gaza refugee camps also ends up in Arafat's private bank accounts."

Earlier this week Lauri Haavistola agreed to accept a partial settlement for his claim, because, as Paula said: "We don't have any more money to fight them any longer."

The partial settlement followed a request to a Dallas court to allow the flight crew to take Arafat's jet up for a test flight. "Only if it is flown by an American pilot and a Texas ranger," was the court's response.

Meanwhile the jet is still undergoing tests at Dallas - and waiting for Adnan Sa'adi to find another qualified US pilot to fly it.

The writers are authors of The Mossad: Secrets of the Israeli Secret Service and other books on the Middle East.

Beilin's bid

SUSAN HATTIS ROLEF

AT a press conference on Tuesday Yossi Beilin announced that he plans to contend the Labor Party leadership on June 3, 1997.

"After Shimon withdrew [from the contest]," he said, "I felt there was no one in the party leading Peres's school of thought, which is the correct combination of peace and security."

Beilin's reasons are, of course, far more complex.

For better or worse the compromise reached between Peres and Ehud Barak - which Haim Ramon termed "a typical Mappai compromise, and not a very wise one at that" - means Peres really is on his way out unless Binyamin Netanyahu saves him with a national unity government, an offer Labor couldn't refuse.

The compromise set a rather tight timetable. First a meeting of the "old" party conference, elected back in November 1991, will convene in January and deal with constitutional questions like whether the new party chairman is to be elected in open primaries (Ramon's suggestion) or closed ones.

Second, a meeting of the newly elected party conference will convene in May and deal with ideological issues, so that whoever becomes party leader is formally "shackled" by a generally agreed platform.

Third, primaries for the new party leader will be held on June 3.

This timetable poses a problem for Labor's "octet," of which Ramon and Beilin are the leading members.

Barak is already running at full speed and all the published opinion polls say he is way ahead of any other potential contender. By contrast Ramon, the most attractive candidate the octet can present, is having difficulties, some objective, others self-imposed.

Among the former is that to many members of the party Ramon's name is mud, for two reasons - both, I feel, totally unjustified.

Ramon is blamed for breaking up the Histadrut, or being responsible for its nakedness, even though he was just the boy who shouted, "The emperor has no clothes."

He is also blamed for not placing Rabin's assassination at the center of Labor's election campaign, even though no one can prove that Peres would have got even one more vote had Rabin's blood oozed out of everyone's TV sets in May.

Ramon's self-imposed difficulties result from his not having yet made up his mind if he wants to contend the leadership or even remain in the party.

And this is the main reason Beilin has decided to enter the race, apparently with Peres's blessing.

One source very close to Beilin really believes Beilin has a chance of beating Barak, and that this new move isn't (as another contender suggested to me) a trick to get a ministerial post in a possible national unity government, or a maneuver to gauge the power in Labor of the political camp Beilin represents for political haggling with Barak if Barak gets elected come June.

THERE IS no doubt that Beilin is a very different kettle of fish from Barak.

Barak is a former chief of staff. Beilin a bespectacled academic. Ideologically there isn't one issue on which Barak has expressed a clear position, while Beilin doesn't mince his words and presents precise ideas on a wide variety of issues that classify him as a pragmatic social-liberal dove.

Though Barak looks anyone facing him straight in the eye and gives them the (usually false) feeling that what they are saying is important, it is Beilin who is the master of the art of purposeful dialogue.

He did it with the Palestinians before and after Oslo, he did it with members of the National Religious Party after Yitzhak Rabin's assassination, and he is currently doing it with several Likud members.

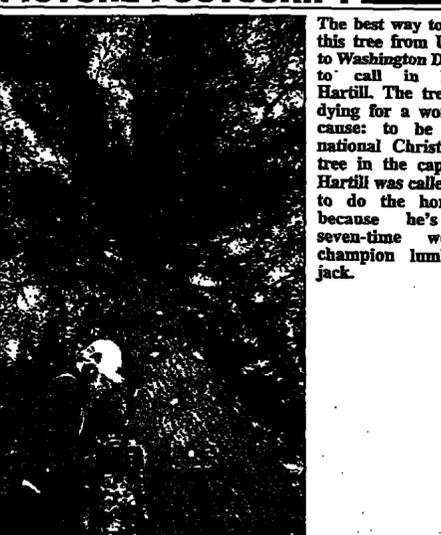
Does he stand a chance opposite Barak? I'm not convinced, especially since Barak has a winner's aura, something Beilin lacks.

But one thing is certain: Whatever the outcome of the contest on June 3 it is vital for Labor that Barak and Beilin find a way to work together as a team and not waste their energy on lifelong rivalry.

The two men complement each other. Between them they have enough IQ, initiative and imagination for three intelligent people.

The writer is a political scientist.

PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



POSTSCRIPTS

THE DEFENSE Ministry was up in arms recently, after someone impersonating it on the Internet put everything from military tents to tanks on the block in its name. The World Wide Web site is emblazoned with an Israeli national insignia and the title "Ministry of Defence."

Along with traditional army surplus, the site offers A-4 Skyhawk fighter planes, artillery, patrol boats and a wide variety of weapons.

After requesting the customer's name, phone number and e-mail address, the site asks if the inquiry is of "high" or "normal" priority. The customer is given the option of negotiating the deal by phone, fax, e-mail or "a middleman." A phone and fax number at the bottom of the page were inactive.

"The site was opened... by a private group or person not authorized to use the Defense Ministry's name," the ministry said in a statement, adding the creator of the site had been contacted and pledged to remove it. An official said the creator of the site was Japanese.

In any case, reality may be about to imitate fiction: the Defense Ministry admitted that it was indeed planning to go on-line to sell surplus gear.

Unemployed and under fire

DEAR RUTHIE
RUTHIE BLUM



DEAR Ruthie, After supporting my wife for 20 years (we have been married 25), I was fired from my job. For the past five years, my wife has had to work to support us.

I have been trying to find work, but haven't been able to do so. My wife has not been sympathetic. She says if I don't pull myself together, she will leave me. I think this is highly unfair, since for all of those years, I was the main breadwinner.

I've tried to explain to her that getting a job at my age (48), in my profession, is almost impossible. I am distraught. With no job and no prospects, if my wife leaves me, I will have nothing. Even my two sons seem to have contempt for me now. This makes it even more difficult for me to have the energy to look for a position. Can you help?

Unemployed & Under Fire
Somewhere in Israel

Dear U & U,
It sounds to me as though your unemployment is the symptom of a greater problem, rather than the source of the problem itself. And, undoubtedly, it is the greater problem which your wife and sons are responding negatively.

vided through most municipalities. Dear Ruthie, After having been married for 10 years to a man with very little appetite for sex (and when we did have sex, it was very dull), I have been experimenting with various relationships - some merely sexual, and some in which emotion is also involved.

A couple of months ago, I met someone who is very kind and loving, and to whom I am developing a strong attachment. The problem is that in bed he is very different. He becomes almost violent at times (though he's never actually hurt me), and he likes to engage in strange sexual activities (which I won't go into here). This worries me, because I think maybe there's something wrong with him, and yet he is really a wonderful person. Should I talk to him about my fears? I feel uncomfortable about it.

Sex Speech Shy
Somewhere in Israel

Dear SSS,
Before talking to him about what's troubling you, you would do well to have a long talk with yourself. Sexual attraction is a gut reaction aroused by impulses within ourselves. Often these impulses are too automatic to be examined. Unfortunately, these impulses are often negative.

It is possible that your initial attraction to this man was based unconsciously on his "strange" and "violent" sexuality - rather than on his "kind and loving" nature. If so, you may be rolling down a slippery slope into an abusive relationship. If so, you may consider seeking some help.

If not, you should at least be able to discuss your hesitations with a man to whom you are growing attached.

Meanwhile, ask yourself why engaging in sexual acts you consider dubious is easier for you than engaging in candid discussion about them.

Letters should be addressed to: 'Dear Ruthie,' POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. For E-mail: editors@jpost.co.il

Men's studies are coming of age on US campuses

IN academic courses, in campus forums and workshops, colleges nationwide are embracing a new subject to study and debate: Men.

At Colorado State University last month, hundreds of students flocked to campus sessions on masculinity, including one titled: "From Intimacy Phobic to Intimacy Junkie: A New Path for Men." At Hobart College in New York, faculty are tackling the topic with a class called "Theories of Masculinity." In it, students have explored the male predicament by reading, among other works, the novel *Deliverance*.

The University of Michigan held a campus symposium on manhood earlier this semester. Ohio University has a new course called "The Nature of Men." Students at Long Island University have created a "Black Men's Forum." At the University of Illinois, dormitory counselors are leading student discussions on male roles and identity problems.

College faculty say interest in studying the history and psychology of men, or what is meant to be masculine, is a reflection of other trends evident across American culture - from best-selling books on male spirituality, to last year's Million Man March on Washington, to Promise Keepers - a national movement that urges men to root their lives in Christianity and family.

"More colleges are seeing a need for this," said Guy Davis, an administrator at the University of Illinois who develops workshops on men for that campus. "A lot of young men today don't know who they are, or who they're supposed to be, in this society."

That concern is hardly overwhelming academia - yet. But some are taking the matter seriously. They contend that the increasing academic attention faculty and students are giving men is similar to the rise of women's studies in the 1970s.

That comparison is stirring both hope and alarm. Hundreds of colleges have academic programs that focus on women. Some of them are welcoming the new interest in studying men and are busy promoting discussion on the subject. On other campuses, however, there are fears that what is emerging is in part a hostile reaction to feminism, or the strides women are continuing to make in the workplace.

"This is quite a phenomenon on some campuses," said Abigail Stewart, a psychology professor who directs the women's studies program at the University of Michigan. "There is some backlash about shifting gender roles behind this, but the fact is there are conservative and progressive

forces in society making people think more about masculinity. Students are curious about what it means for them."

That is why Matt Totero, a freshman at Hobart College, enrolled in this fall's "Theories of Masculinity." In that course, students have studied men through the poetry of Robert Bly, an icon of the men's movement; the novel *Remains of the Day*, whose protagonist is a butler; the Clint Eastwood Western *Unforgiven*; and the comedy film *City Slickers*.

To his surprise, and delight, Totero found there were women in the class, too, which he thinks infuses an air of necessary seriousness: "If it were all guys, everyone would only want to talk about football or drinking." The class is evenly split between men and women.

One of those women, Cheryl Wallace, said she expected the course to be light. It isn't. Discussions, she said, have been intense - about feminism, about men and alcohol, even about whether opening a door for a woman is sexist.

"You grow up seeing all the big differences between men and women, but don't know why that is," Wallace said. "I think women today are really trying hard to figure out what makes men tick. That was definitely in the back of my mind when I signed up."

(The Washington Post)

JUDITH SUDILOVSKY

ALTHOUGH it may be hard to believe, Cuban President Fidel Castro may just have a soft spot somewhere in his heart for Israel, thanks to Dr. Ricardo Wolf, a German Jew who immigrated to Cuba before World War I. And thanks to that same man, one of the world's prestigious academic awards in the areas of medicine, agriculture, chemistry, physics, and the arts are awarded from Israel every year.

Announcement of this year's Wolf Foundation Prize winners began the second week of November, and the \$100,000 prize money in each category will be presented to the winners by President Ezer Weizman at the Knesset, in April.

So far this year, announcements have been made of the winners in the categories of mathematics, medicine and agriculture. American mathematician Joseph B. Keller of Stanford University and Russian Yakov G. Sinai of the Landau Institute of Theoretical Physics in Moscow and Princeton University will share this year's mathematics prize. Dr. Mary Frances Lyon of the British Medical Research Council's Radiobiology Unit was this year's medical prize laureate for her research into mammalian biology which has helped in the detection of disorders linked with the female X-chromosome, and Neal L. First of the University of Wisconsin was named winner of the agriculture prize for his pioneering research in the reproductive biology of livestock.

The Wolf Prize was the first academic award field of agriculture, and over the years some 16 Wolf Prize recipients in the fields of

medicine, chemistry, and physics have gone on to win the Nobel Prize in their fields.

It all began when Wolf, who had studied chemistry in Germany before coming to Cuba, succeeded in developing a process for recovering iron from the residue of the metal smelting process. His invention was used in steel mills all over the world, making him a rich man. Yet, he remained a fervent socialist and when Castro began his revolution, Wolf supported him both financially and morally.

After Castro succeeded in toppling Cuban leader Fulgencio Batista y Zaldívar, the communist leader showed his gratitude for Wolf's help by allowing him to choose any position he wanted within the government. Wolf chose the post of ambassador to Israel, and established the Cuban Embassy in Herzliya in 1961. The only other non-Cuban permitted to serve in the government was the Argentinian revolutionary Che Guevara. A special law was passed to allow the two men to become part of Castro's government.

"Dr. Wolf was a socialist and a Zionist," said Yaron Grudner, general manager of the Wolf Foundation. "He saw Israel as a country Cuba should try to emulate. He sent a lot of technical and agricultural experts to Cuba from Israel. He passed on to Castro his love for Israel."

The love affair ended, however, in 1973, when Cuba followed many other developing countries and severed diplomatic ties with Israel in the wake of the Yom Kippur War and the Arab boycott. Wolf, then aged 86, decided to remain in Israel - a move which did not please Castro.



Dr. Ricardo Wolf saw Israel as a country Cuba should try to emulate.

In 1975 Wolf, together with his wife Francisca Subirana, who had been a tennis champion in her native Cuba as a young woman, set up the Wolf Foundation with an endowment of \$10 million from the royalties from his inven-

tion. Though she was not a Jew, Subirana chose to remain in Israel with her husband. Wolf died in 1981, and less than a month later, so did his wife.

"The Wolf Foundation prize provides an important public relations

tool for the State of Israel," said Grudner. "No matter what the political situation, or which government is in power, these awards are still known as an Israeli award and place Israel high in the academic world."

Read all about it! What we do on a slow news day

ONE of the unspoken hazards of the news business is that some days, not to put too fine a point on it, there is simply no news.

Or rather, there is no looming disaster, no outbreaking war, no peace, no gory courtroom drama, no miracle drug, no unseemly political spat - nothing to feed the massive communications industry's insatiable appetite for events that we have come to know as "news." This is true even if somehow your morning paper is never blank.

Stories like the very one you're reading can suddenly surface on the pages of respectable publications around the world.

"What happens on a slow news day is that stories that are kind of timeless or 'featurey' in quality or require a great deal of background material get pushed onto the front page," said Leo Bogart, author of *Commercial Culture: The Media System and the Public Interest*.

"This can be very interesting, and my own bias is that the most important news is often not what we see or read but what's churning under the surface."

In this view, slow news sometimes means better news - more thoughtful news, more correct news, news that lasts more than 24 hours.

Stories like the first big change in meet inspections in 90 years suddenly move from a lesser spot on the front page of the *New York Times* to a larger headline that signals a historic event. Earlier this year in the *Los Angeles Times*, the front page had room for a story on how spring arrived earlier this year due to global warming.

On the other hand, there are those like Syracuse University political science professor Thomas Patterson, who sees less big news as meaning there is simply more little news to replace it.

"My own feeling is that in many cases, less is less, not less is more," he said.



In the argot of the news trade, this is called hype, and it can sometimes be so well done that it is self-delusional. Journalists involved in a story begin to see it as the story.

"Journalists are very much in the business of persuading us that there's stuff going on and that it's crucial at all times," said Mitchell Stephens, professor of journalism at New York University.

Others note that news has its cycles: just like other human endeavors. In particular, the dog days of summer can often mean the silly season for the serious media.

This summer, for example, up until the spate of terrorist attacks, the movie *Independence Day*

helped sustain many news organizations during several of the summer's slowest weeks. *Time* and *Newsweek* magazines indulged in a superstar war on the covers of their July 4 issues. *Time* featured a geek from outer space; *Newsweek* decided on an earthing who started in the movie.

But if it's difficult for the print

media when the news cupboard seems bare, broadcasters have an even tougher time.

"What do we do on a slow news day? You mean after the management suicides? After the funerals?" said Ed Turner, executive vice president of CNN. There are three basic categories for news "rescue," he concluded.

"One is the what-ever-happened-to-that story, which will explain why the viewer is all of a sudden seeing a lot of stuff on Chad. Another is the reporter favorite - the story that nobody cared about when it was sent in anyway and it's been on the shelf and it's July and you have to be sure there's not a Christmas tree in the background..."

"And the third category is the clever PR person story... and that's when Congressman Blop announces he's going to return to the salt standard - doing away with gold, silver and everything else," Turner continued.

"And it's a legitimate story. But on this day, it's going to get a ride somewhere up there with peace on Earth."

Herbert J. Gans, the Columbia University sociologist who wrote the journalism text *Deciding What's News*, says that because what becomes news on slow days is different, maybe readers and viewers ought to know exactly how newsworthy the day really is.

"I've always thought that at the beginning of a program or on the front page of the newspaper, there should be a notation that says, on a scale from one to 10, whether this was a slow news day, or a fast news day," he said.

"They could say, 'Today was a one, so this is why all this is in there, and here's a quick list of all the things we left out.'"

"But whether anybody would ever admit it was a slow news day, I don't know," he added. "I'm not sure this is admissible."

(Los Angeles Times)

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Thursday, December 5, 1996

January-September jobless rate down to 6.5%

JERUSALEM POST STAFF

ISRAEL'S unemployment level stood at 6.5 percent during the first three quarters, down 0.4% from figures for the same period last year, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced yesterday.

The number of unemployed in September, who had been working during the previous 12 months, totaled 76,000, similar to the figure a year earlier. However, there was a reduction of 6,000 in the number of people who had been without a job for more than a year - down to 64,000.

The number of out of work men increased 0.3% to 5.8%, while the total for women dropped 1.3%, to 7.4%.

The seasonally adjusted figure for the third quarter stood at an average 140,000, or 6.4% of the work force, a similar figure to that in the previous three months. Among men unemployment was at 5.7%, and women, 7.4%.

The number of unemployed actively seeking work during any given four-week period was 155,000 in the three months to September, a similar figure to that registered last year.

The overall civilian work force (including Judea, Samaria and Gaza) reached an average weekly 2,182,000 from July to September, a 2.3% increase on the same period last year. This was mainly because of a 3% increase in the proportion of the population aged 15 and over.

The total work force (excluding the territories) averaged 2,027,000 in the third quarter, up 3.3% on the comparable figure in 1995.

Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai promised last month to make fighting unemployment a major target for his ministry next year.

The seasonally adjusted number of people registered as actively seeking employment fell 3.2% in October to 118,500, according to the ministry.

In regional terms, the highest unemployment was registered in the eastern Negev (9.5%), and the south (7.4%). Nine towns registered unemployment levels higher than 10% in October. They were Ofakim (14.2%), Mizpe Ramon (12.5%), Yeroham (12.4%), and Kiryat Gat 12%. In September, only five areas reported higher than 10% jobless totals.

In the longer-term the Finance Ministry predicts unemployment will diminish over the next five years, but expects an initial increase to a predicted 6.6% in 1997.

Israel, Jordan upgrade treaty

DAVID HARRIS

JORDANIAN Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abu Ragheb and his Israeli counterpart Natan Sharansky signed a memorandum of understanding to improve the seven-month-old trade agreement between the countries during a meeting at the Dead Sea yesterday.

The ceremony followed weeks of protracted negotiations aimed at ironing out teething problems in the earliest stages of trade between the new partners.

The main issues agreed upon include alterations in the method of calculating customs duty, reducing duty on certain items, and adding new products to those incorporated in the original agreement.

Under the new arrangements, a

list of products will become fully exempt from customs duty, including filters for motor-vehicles, bakery equipment, optical lenses and toys.

Some 50 items now become 50 percent exempt, such as confectioneries, plastic piping and glasses-frames. Other items will be subject to 70% duty.

Israeli exports average \$2.5 million a month, with imports at \$1.5m.

The main stumbling block to the smooth passing of imports and exports had been Israel's security fears, with both sides admitting this was leading to lengthy delays in transferring

goods across the border.

Since the original agreement was signed, Jordanian trucks were unloaded before passing the border at both the Arava and King Hussein crossing points.

Their contents were checked, then loaded onto Israeli vehicles for delivery to their final destination. During the first four months of the agreement, an average 270 vehicles a month arrived at the border, two-thirds from Jordan, the remainder containing Israeli exports.

Given these numbers, and the inconvenience caused, the Jordanians have been particularly vociferous in calling for the

"door-to-door" method being adopted. Ahead of yesterday's signing, officials from both sides concluded an accord whereby the checks will take place at the original vehicle loading points, by joint Israeli-Jordanian security teams.

In addition to these fresh agreements, the ministers approved further discussions between officials from both countries to find ways of improving import-export links between Jordan and the PA.

The ministers also discussed opportunities for improving industrial cooperation, possible investment opportunities and the trilateral trade arrangement with the US, which has already kick-started two pilot projects launched earlier this year.



Minister of Industry and Trade Natan Sharansky meets with his Jordanian counterpart, Ali Abu Ragheb, at the Dead Sea to sign a memorandum of understanding. (Tav Or)

Oil refineries expect gas shortage

EVELYN GORDON

ISRAEL will have to import gas for home heating to make up for an expected shortfall this winter, unless the Israel Oil Refineries steps up its production, the Knesset Economics Committee was told yesterday.

Yossi Kulitz, head of the Infrastructure Ministry's fuel administration, told the committee that Israelis are expected to consume 40,000-45,000 tons of gas a month this winter.

However, the Oil Refineries has committed to produce only 30,000-33,000 tons a month. This

is some 20% less than the company supplied last year.

"It will be possible to overcome the expected shortfall only by means of imports, which will increase the cost per ton by tens of dollars," Kulitz said.

Supervisor of Monopolies Dr. Yoram Turbowicz said the company did not have the right to reduce its output.

"As an infrastructure monopoly, the Oil Refineries have a responsibility to meet all demand," he said. "Instead, it is acting like a commercial firm and produces only when it is [economically] worthwhile... The government must supervise its behavior."

Moshe Farjoun, managing director of the Oil Refineries, responded that the company could not fully meet the growing domestic

demand, as its production capacity is limited. He added, however, that the company does cut back on its production when it becomes economically not worthwhile, as was the case from August to October this year.

However, representatives of gas companies charged that the Oil Refineries were deliberately underproducing in order to pressure the government into raising gas prices.

Committee chairman Elie Goldschmidt (Labor) demanded that Kulitz and Farjoun report back to the committee within a week on how they plan to prevent the projected shortfall.

Farjoun said the Oil Refineries would be willing to help the gas companies import and store the necessary quantities of gas, as the companies said they do not have the proper facilities to store the gas themselves.

Amir Paper may demand higher tariff on Pampers

JENNIFER FRIEDLIN and wire services

AMIR Paper Products of Kibbutz Amir said yesterday it may appeal to the Ministry of Industry and Trade to impose a higher duty on Pampers disposable diapers sold here.

In June, the ministry issued a temporary ruling that accused Procter and Gamble, the Cincinnati-based manufacturer of household products that makes Pampers, of dumping German-made diapers into the Israeli market. At first, the ministry said P&G dumped the German Pampers at as much as 41 percent below market prices and determined that P&G's alleged dumping harmed Israeli producers and cut into Amir Papers' profit.

In the latest decision, the ministry's commissioner on trade duties concluded the dumping margin was actually 30%. The ministry said that was the difference between the export price of the German-made diapers and the price at which they were sold in Germany by a P&G subsidiary.

The commission then mandated P&G to post a temporary bond at a rate of 7.2%, which is the difference between Amir Papers' pretax profits in 1993 and in 1995, on all Pampers diapers sent into Israel, pending a final ruling by the trade ministry.

Earlier this week P&G said it appealed the interim ruling.

"We continue to believe that the case is without merit, and we still expect this to be reflected when the ministry makes its final ruling," P&G spokesman Terry Lofuss said.

Amir Paper Products said it is considering an appeal due to its dissatisfaction with what it considered to be a lenient ruling against P&G. "What is peculiar to me is that the dumping margin was set at 30.4%, but the temporary bond was fixed at just 7.2%," said Yoav Nir, director-general of Amir Paper Products.

It is unclear when the ministry will make a final ruling. It could take as long as two years.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Israel to be regional Berlitz center
Israel will become the regional hub for the Berlitz international language school, following the appointment of national managing director David Lieber as head of operations for the Middle East and Mediterranean region. The company is represented in Greece, Turkey, Cyprus, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and the United Arab Emirates. Internationally, company revenues totaled \$400 million last year. *David Harris*

US-Israel agricultural agreement takes effect
The new five-year US-Israel agreement on trade in agricultural products came into force yesterday, after it was signed by US President Bill Clinton on Monday. The agreement will cut tariffs on agricultural and food imports. The agreement sets limits on tariff-free imports of refrigerated and frozen beef, poultry, apples, pears, grapes, citrus fruits, sunflower seeds, cheese, and certain fresh and frozen vegetables. The two sides anticipate the new arrangement will lead to agricultural trade totaling an annual \$800 million by 2000. Tariffs on wines will be lowered, until the issue is discussed again in mid-1998. *David Harris*

Leumi NY net up by 20%

COMPANY RESULTS GALIT LIPKIS BECK

BANK Leumi Trust Company of New York, a subsidiary of Bank Leumi, recorded net earnings of \$8.6 million for the first nine months of 1996, compared to \$7.2m. in the same period last year, the bank announced this week.

Commenting on the results, chief executive officer Dr. Zalman Segal said, "This profit, along with our robust earnings in 1995, and the strength of our balance sheet, clearly demonstrates the success of the business strategy we set in place several years ago."

At the start of the decade the bank suffered losses, mainly as a result of the recession prevailing in

the US. As a result, the subsidiary has closed loss-making operations and sold unprofitable branches. Today, Bank Leumi Trust Company serves as a specialized bank, with a focus on middle market companies, internationally oriented business, non-profit organizations and affluent individuals in the New York area and abroad.

BLI Corp., the New York-based holding company of Bank Leumi reported a net profit of \$6.8m. in the last 12 months, compared to \$0.3m. for the full 12 months of 1995. Segal said the improvement is a result of "the strong performance of its New York bank subsidiary."

Hapoalim, Clal Insurance to buy Atudot pension fund

JERUSALEM POST STAFF

BANK Hapoalim and Clal Insurance Company yesterday agreed to acquire control of the Atudot 1996 pension fund from Binah Haklai and the Mivtach Shamir Insurance Agency.

The companies signed a joint ownership agreement which marks an "exclusive combination in the new pension fund field," said Bank Hapoalim.

Following the sale, Clal Insurance will control 55% of Atudot, while Bank Hapoalim will have a 20% stake. Mivtach Shamir and Betuah Haklai will own 12.5% each. The agreement is subject to the approval of the authorities.

Menachem Zotar, head of Bank Hapoalim's provident fund, pension fund and insurance division, said the purchase is based on expectations that in the future banks will be able to sell pension and insurance instruments. In the US banks recently received

approval to sell insurance policies, said Zotar, who added that in his view it will take a few years for Israel to follow suit.

"We have asked the Treasury to support the supervisor of banks' proposal to allow us to sell policies of this kind. We are currently preparing ourselves," said Zotar.

The Atudot 1996 pension fund commenced operations several months ago, after it received approval to sell provident funds for pensions. The fund was established following the Treasury's announcement of new provident fund regulations in 1995 which involved, among other things, the operation of a management company.

The initial Atudot fund is an actuary fund established four years ago. The fund has more than 40,000 members including Scitex, Cellcom, other high-tech companies and some of Bank Hapoalim's workers.

TENDERS

Israel electric החשמל

The Israel Electric Corporation (hereinafter: the Company) invites bids for carrying out the following work:

TENDER 2394/96

Construction of a Steel Building at the Rotenberg B Power Station, Units 3 and 4, Ashkelon

The work includes assembly of an approximately 15,000 ton steel building, air and gas ducts, cable conduits, power station equipment, lifting mechanism and other installations.

The work is to be completed within 27 months.

PRECONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE TENDER

To participate in the tender, bidders must meet the following criteria:

- The bidder must be registered in the Register of Contractors in accordance with the Law for Registering Contractors for Engineering Construction Work, 1989 (hereinafter: "the law") in the 150 A-5 Category (unlimited). Proof must be submitted on purchase of the tender documents or alternatively, submit an exemption from the Minister of Housing, in accordance with Para. 14a of the law.
- The bidder must submit all relevant permits in accordance with the law of business transactions of public bodies 1978 (containing they keep books as prescribed by law and pay taxes - to be submitted on purchase of tender documents).
- The bidder must submit documents proving he possesses the experience and capability of carrying out works, the nature and scope of which are specified in the tender, in steam power stations with units with a production capacity of over 500 MW each, or in large petrochemical installations.
- The bidder must submit a bank guarantee fixed to the contractor's price index (stamped as prescribed by law) of 5% of the bid total (not including VAT). As specified in the tender documents, the guarantee should be for a period of 75 days from the last date for submitting the bid.
- The bidder must prove he possesses the financial strength to execute the work and to comply with all the conditions of the bid.
- The bidder must participate in the tour for contractors, the date of which will be announced separately.

SUBMISSION OF BIDS

- Bids will be submitted on the tender documents and in accordance with the conditions and instructions set forth in them.
- The tender documents and additional details are available at the Tender Department - Project Implementation Division, 16 Rehov Harashimel, Tel Aviv (11th floor), Tel. 03-5676891/728, 7:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. by Thursday, December 12, 1996.
- The tender documents will not be on sale after this date.
- The price of the tender documents is NIS 2,925 (including VAT, non-refundable). Bids should be placed in the Tenders Box at the office of the Tender Department - Project Implementation Division, at the above address, by Wednesday, January 22, 1997, at 1 p.m.

NOTE

- Only bidders with proper security clearance will be allowed to carry out the work.
- In accordance with Para. 7a of the Tender Regulations 1983, the corporation reserves the right to negotiate with the bidders as it sees fit.
- No understanding is given to accept the lowest or any bid.
- In the event of a contradiction between the Hebrew and the English versions of this announcement, the Hebrew version will be binding.

03 5676891

UMB's Offer: Data-purchase charges baseless

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

YEHUDA (Yuli) Ofer, chairman of the Ofer Bros. Group, said yesterday he is confident reported charges, according to which he illegally obtained information concerning United Mizrahi Bank

(UMB) when it was for sale, will be proven unfounded within a month.

"There is nothing in it and this will be proven within a month," said Ofer after being asked about

reports that the Tel Aviv District Attorney's Office has completed a draft charge sheet. The investigation began after the Ofer-Wertheim

group's successful bid for UMB at the end of 1994.

Several days before the bid was submitted Ofer met with former *Globe* journalist Doron Rosenzweig, who sold Ofer information on corruption in the bank for \$15,000. Ofer claims he did not

know that the documents were stolen.

Consequently, the Bank of Israel's supervisor of banks held up the sale until the case was reviewed.

The central bank found that the information Rosenzweig sold did not provide Ofer with an advantage over the competing bidder, the Akrov Group.

During the Bank of Israel's investigation it emerged that Ofer suggested that Rosenzweig pass the information he had to the Akrov Group as well, and Akrov even reported about this development to the police, according to a source close to Ofer.

At that time, Akrov and Ofer were on good terms with each other, and Ofer wanted his competitor to receive the same information he had obtained.

CALLING ALL YOU HANDICRAFTERS

The Jerusalem Post Pessah Handicrafts Fair will take place on Wednesday, April 23, 1997, at the Ratanana Sports Center, next to Metro West High School.

If you create top quality handicrafts and wish to book a stand at the fair, please contact Beverlee Black, Director of The Jerusalem Post Funds, Tel. 02-623-3986.

All proceeds from the fair will help Israel's needy children, the elderly and new immigrants.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Pateh (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)

Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	5.275
Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.875	4.000	4.250
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.825	2.000	2.125
Swiss franc (SF 500,000)	0.825	0.750	1.000
Yen (10 million yen)			

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (4.12.96)

CHECKS AND TRANSFERS	BANKNOTES		Rep. Rates**
	Buy	Sell	
Currency basket	3.6389	3.6958	3.6958
U.S. dollar	3.2837	3.3184	3.2900
German mark	2.0912	2.1220	2.1082
Pound sterling	5.4971	5.4771	5.4125
French franc	0.6188	0.6288	0.6240
Japanese yen (100)	2.8825	2.8200	2.8200
Dutch guilder	1.8943	1.8944	1.8910
Swiss franc	2.4708	2.5105	2.4500
Norwegian krona	0.4828	0.4881	0.4700
Swedish krona	0.5019	0.5100	0.4900
Denmark krone	0.5468	0.5585	0.5500
Finland mark	0.7008	0.7122	0.7000
Canadian dollar	2.4185	2.4378	2.4200
Australian dollar	2.0082	2.0513	2.0300
S. African rand	0.7010	0.7124	0.7000
Belgian franc (10)	1.0142	1.0308	1.0200
Austrian schilling (10)	2.9726	3.0205	2.9200
Italian lire (1000)	2.1282	2.1605	2.1400
Jordanian dinar	4.5400	4.8300	4.5400
Egyptian pound	0.8300	1.0100	0.8300
ECU	4.0429	4.1082	4.0500
Irish punt	5.9332	6.4802	5.9300
Spanish peseta (100)	2.4847	2.5248	2.4800

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

Reading between the lines... you have time for trading action until 11 PM.

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ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

Key Representative Rates

U.S. Dollar	NIS 3.2637	+0.14
Sterling	NIS 5.3901	-0.08
German mark	NIS 2.0911	+0.38

NYSE STOCK MARKETS

New York market indexes

DJ Industrial	8428.26	+18.75
DJ Transport	2228.26	+13.25
DJ Utility	2281.41	+10.25
DJ Average	2741.41	+11.25
S&P 500	2741.41	+11.25
NASDAQ	1584.52	+1.25
NYSE	1584.52	+1.25

Other stock market indexes

FTSE 100	4042.2	+16.3
DAX	2508.7	+12.2
Nikkei	15845.2	+102.5
Hong Kong	10250.0	+105.0
London	2741.41	+11.25

Israeli stocks in US

AMX	10.00	+0.10
AMX	10.00	+0.10
AMX	10.00	+0.10
AMX	10.00	+0.10
AMX	10.00	+0.10

AD Securities

AMX	10.00	+0.10
AMX	10.00	+0.10
AMX	10.00	+0.10
AMX	10.00	+0.10
AMX	10.00	+0.10

LIBOR rates

3 months	5.50%
6 months	5.50%
9 months	5.50%
12 months	5.50%

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd.

Futures, Options, Stocks, and Mutual Funds

34 Ben Yehuda St. Jerusalem
Tel. 02-244993, 03-5758826
Fax. 02-244876

US commodities

Cocoa (Dec)	1311	-11
Wheat (Dec)	12.28	-0.13
Wheat (Mar)	12.28	-0.13
Wheat (Jun)	12.28	-0.13
Wheat (Sep)	12.28	-0.13

Spot market metals (US)

Copper	1.00	+0.01
Gold	380.0	+0.25
Silver	4.35	+0.01

New York metal futures

Copper	1.00	+0.01
Gold	380.0	+0.25
Silver	4.35	+0.01

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Multi-sided trading

Name	Price	% Change	Volume	% Volume
Bank Leumi	140.00	+0.71	1,200,000	15.2
Bank Hapoalim	135.00	+0.74	1,100,000	14.1
Bank Mizrahi	130.00	+0.77	1,000,000	12.8
Bank Leumi (A)	125.00	+0.80	900,000	11.5
Bank Hapoalim (A)	120.00	+0.83	800,000	10.2
Bank Mizrahi (A)	115.00	+0.86	700,000	9.0

Two-sided trading

Name	Price	% Change	Volume	% Volume
Bank Leumi	140.00	+0.71	1,200,000	15.2
Bank Hapoalim	135.00	+0.74	1,100,000	14.1
Bank Mizrahi	130.00	+0.77	1,000,000	12.8
Bank Leumi (A)	125.00	+0.80	900,000	11.5
Bank Hapoalim (A)	120.00	+0.83	800,000	10.2
Bank Mizrahi (A)	115.00	+0.86	700,000	9.0

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Name	Price	% Change	Volume	% Volume
Bank Leumi	140.00	+0.71	1,200,000	15.2
Bank Hapoalim	135.00	+0.74	1,100,000	14.1
Bank Mizrahi	130.00	+0.77	1,000,000	12.8
Bank Leumi (A)	125.00	+0.80	900,000	11.5
Bank Hapoalim (A)	120.00	+0.83	800,000	10.2
Bank Mizrahi (A)	115.00	+0.86	700,000	9.0

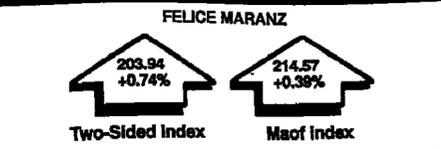
NEW YORK

Bank Leumi	140.00	+0.71
Bank Hapoalim	135.00	+0.74
Bank Mizrahi	130.00	+0.77
Bank Leumi (A)	125.00	+0.80
Bank Hapoalim (A)	120.00	+0.83
Bank Mizrahi (A)	115.00	+0.86

PARIS

Bank Leumi	140.00	+0.71
Bank Hapoalim	135.00	+0.74
Bank Mizrahi	130.00	+0.77
Bank Leumi (A)	125.00	+0.80
Bank Hapoalim (A)	120.00	+0.83
Bank Mizrahi (A)	115.00	+0.86

Shares rise as shekel declines again



Shares climbed for a second day as investors expected the shekel to continue to weaken against the US dollar, helping exporters' profits.

Trading exceeded NIS 100 million for the second day as well.

Stocks had soared Tuesday as the shekel weakened to its lowest point against the dollar since Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's coalition was elected. The currency was little changed today at 3.29 versus the dollar.

Leading the market higher were Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd., which represent nearly 10 percent of the Maof Index, 72% greater than last month's daily average of NIS 58.6m. More than three issues climbed for every one that declined.

Koor Industries Ltd. was the most active issue, trading unchanged on NIS 7.5m of shares traded.

Eurobourses drop, hit by US decline

LONDON (Reuters) - European bourses ended sharply down yesterday as Wall Street retreated further only a day after US stocks tumbled to their biggest loss in five months.

On currency markets, the dollar regained some poise after a choppy performance ended its rally to a 23-month peak against the mark on Tuesday. Sterling weakened amid fears that its recent strength could harm British industry.

The losses on European bourses ended a record-breaking pace on much of the continent this week fuelled by investors who saw the recent strength of the dollar as a boon to exporters.

London and Paris shares ended showing losses as Wall Street fell 0.4 percent, a follow-on from the wave of profit-taking on Tuesday which wiped 1.21 percent off the Dow Jones industrial average.

Frankfurt finished with a loss of 0.72% after hitting a record close of 2,886.98 points on Tuesday.

European bourses were depressed by Tuesday's big fall on Wall Street. Computer-driven sell programs in New York kicked in during a frantic last 10 minutes of trading to lock in profits after the Dow rose 500 points, or 8%, in November.

But the gloom in London, where stocks fell 0.44%, was slightly offset by the weaker pound which was seen as helping the exporting sector. The FTSE 100 index of leading British shares ended 16.3 points lower at 4,045.2.

French stocks suffered the biggest knock from Wall Street, ending down 1.7% after a strong performance this week. All CAC-40 stocks closed with losses, apart from Eurotunnel which advanced as the Channel Tunnel reopened.

Lagardere fell 7% to 145 francs, hit hard by suspension of the Thomson privatization.

In Paris, the CAC-40 share index finished down 40.46 at 2,308.65.

Frankfurt closed down 0.7%, sapped by Wall Street's fall and the weaker dollar, after a day of quiet trading.

The 30-share DAX index in Frankfurt closed down 20.91 at 2,866.07.

Dow drops for second day as profit-taking sweeps market

NEW YORK (AP) - Stocks fell with bonds yesterday as a wave of profit-taking hit the markets for the second straight session, but they recovered toward the close amid some bargain hunting.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average dropped 19.75 points to close at 6,422.94, after rebounding from a 75-point deficit over the last hour. On Tuesday, the Dow slid 79 points, most of it in the last hour, as traders locked in big gains from last month's nearly 500-point advance by the blue-chip barometer.

Broader stock measures also recovered as the session wound down. The Nasdaq market snapped its streak of seven-consecutive record closes as the high-flying technology sector succumbed to the selling pressure.

After an early follow-through to late Tuesday's pullback, the session turned sluggish with bonds trading almost unchanged.

Despite the absence of any alarming news in a Federal Reserve report on the economy,

WALL STREET REPORT

LONDON

Bank Leumi	140.00	+0.71
Bank Hapoalim	135.00	+0.74
Bank Mizrahi	130.00	+0.77
Bank Leumi (A)	125.00	+0.80
Bank Hapoalim (A)	120.00	+0.83
Bank Mizrahi (A)	115.00	+0.86

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES

R	MARK	STERLING	YEN	SFF	FFf
MARK	-	0.3889/02	72.484/48	0.8463/85	3.3788/83
STERLING	2.5631/41	-	185.73/85	2.1688/11	8.6598/82
YEN	1.3782/04	0.5380/84	-	1.1672/86	4.8600/47
SFF	118.07/1	0.4008/11	85.60/85	-	3.9894/47
FFf	0.2958/61	0.1154/55	21.42/47	25.0328/24	-

Price from 2800 local time

Israeli teams defeat Greek opponents on Hanukka eve

IT WAS a good night for Israeli teams in European competition last night, as Rishon LeZion and Galil Elyon edged out their Greek opponents, while Hapoel Jerusalem thrashed Cyprus's Nicosia club.

Mac Rishon 62, Sporting Athens 61

Leadell Backles' only point of the second half, a free throw with just six seconds remaining, provided host Rishon with the slim margin of victory. A rematch will be played on Wednesday with the aggregate winner moving on to the round of 16 in Korac Cup Competition.

Rishon's disorganized, haphazard offense has been a source of turmoil all season long. Last night, coach Roni Bosani's club went back to the basics, pounding the ball inside to James Gully while taking the outside shot when it was available.

The inside-outside combination reached its zenith almost midway through the second half. With Rishon down 40-38, sharpshooter Alexander Nikolic and Gully switched off scoring on four consecutive possessions, opening up a 48-43 Rishon lead.

ELI GRONER

The Greeks refused to back down though, and terrific second-half performances by Dimitris Avdalas and Yannis Gakis kept Athens within striking range. Even when Nikolic converted a rare four-point play to extend Rishon's lead to 56-49 with 5:30 remaining, the Greek duo converted Sporting's next eight points to cut the gap to 58-57. Nikolic converted yet another three-pointer to extend the lead, however. Andres Guibert and Avdalas scored to tie the game up, setting the stage for Backles' game-winning free throw.

Gully was outstanding throughout, scoring 17 points along with 20 rebounds. Nikolic tossed in 15 while Doron Jamchoe contributed 11. For Athens, Guibert had 21 points and 14 rebounds while Avdalas tallied 17.

Galil Elyon 95, Macedonia 79

Alon Stein's 20 second-half points helped the hosts overcome an otherwise shoddy performance as they defeated the Macedonians. The victory leaves the northerners with a realistic chance of reaching the next stage of the European Cup Competition, needing a Macedonian loss next week coupled with a nine-point victory of their own.

The score was close for most of the game, but as the game's end neared, David Blatt urged his troops to open a big lead in anticipation of next week's vital game. Stein complied, scoring 15 points over the last five minutes, breaking open a 73-69 score. Before Stein went on his scoring spree, Marc Carver scored all 13 of his points in the preceding nine minutes helping Galil maintain a slight lead.

The first half featured different stars, as Gur Shelef and Jason Dixon shared the offensive load. The tandem combined for 32 of Galil's 44 first-half points, enabling the northerners to overcome a rare poor performance from Andrew Kennedy.

Hapoel Jerusalem 90, Nicosia 62

Doron Shefa (16 points), Motti Daniel (14), Dan Bingenheimer (13), and Adi Gordon (10) paced the way as Galil cruised to victory against their overmatched opponents.

Jerusalem has already secured a spot in the next round of European Cup competition.

Manchester United beats Rapid for quarter-final berth

VIENNA (Reuter) - England's Manchester United booked a berth in the quarter-finals of the European Cup with a 2-0 victory over Austrian rivals Rapid Vienna in their final Champions' League match last night.

The victory gave United second place in Group C, seven points behind holders Juventus but two ahead of Turkey's Fenerbahce who lost 2-0 to the Italians in Turin.

Ryan Giggs opened the scoring for the English club at the Ernst Happel stadium with a spectacular shot in the 24th minute from a pass by Eric Cantona.

The French striker missed a gilt-edged chance in the 65th minute after a cross from Norway's Ole Solskjaer when his header bounced on the goalpost.

But Cantona made amends seven minutes later when he converted an excellent cross from David Beckham.

It was Rapid Vienna's first home defeat in 13 European Cup ties.



PASSING THE BUCK - Chicago's forward Dennis Rodman steals the ball away from Milwaukee's forward Vin Baker in the first quarter of Tuesday night's game in Milwaukee.

The Heat burn Knicks 99-75, win seventh straight road game

NEW YORK (AP) - Sasha Danilovic went 7-for-7 on 3-pointers, and the Miami Heat won their seventh straight road game and eighth straight overall with a 99-75 victory over the New York Knicks on Tuesday night.

Alonzo Mourning outplayed Patrick Ewing in the battle of former Georgetown centers and disgraced Knicks fans started heading for the exits midway through the fourth quarter.

Dan Majerle led Miami with 22 points, going 3-for-7 on 3-pointers. Danilovic, who scored 21 points, was one shy of the NBA record for most 3-pointers in a game without a miss.

Allan Houston scored 14 points for the Knicks, who lost for the fourth time in five games.

Bulls 107, Bucks 104

Michael Jordan scored 40 points and visiting Chicago used a 19-5 run at the start of the fourth quarter to beat the Milwaukee Bucks.

Bulls reserve forward Jason Caffey scored a season-high 12 points, including the first six in the Bulls' fourth-quarter spurt that gave Chicago a 14-point lead with about four minutes left.

Glenn Robinson led Milwaukee with 21 points, while Vin Baker had 20 points and 16 rebounds.

Hawks 105, Celtics 95

Dikembe Mutombo had 21 points, 14 rebounds and nine blocks as host Atlanta beat Boston.

Mutombo had seven points and five blocks in the third period when the Hawks outscored the Celtics 29-17 to stretch a 47-45 halftime lead to 75-62.

Atlanta's Steve Smith, returning after missing 10 games with a sprained right ankle, scored 20 points. Christian Laettner added 15 points and Mookie Blaylock 14 for the Hawks, who have won 12 of their last 14 against the Celtics.

Dana Barros scored 24 points for Boston, which remained winless on the road (0-5) this season.

TUESDAY'S NBA RESULTS:

Atlanta 105, Boston 95

Cleveland 93, Toronto 74

Sacramento 96, Minnesota 89

Miami 99, New York 75

Golden State 114, Denver 99

L.A. Clippers 96, Charlotte 89

Indiana 98, Portland 93, OT

L.A. Lakers 110, Seattle 106

WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Midwest Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Houston	15	2	.882	-
Utah	13	2	.867	-1
Minnesota	7	9	.438	7 1/2
Dallas	5	10	.333	9
Denver	5	13	.278	10 1/2
San Antonio	3	13	.188	12
Vancouver	2	15	.118	13

Panionios should be pushovers for red-hot Maccabi

MACCABI TEL AVIV gets a Hanukka present of sorts tonight from the Euroleague schedule - a home game vs. lowly Panionios (Channel 1, 20:45), who dispel the myth that all Greek teams are tough nuts to crack.

Indeed, based on the current form of both clubs, Maccabi should have no difficulty beating the Greek squad, which not only has been floundering in European play, but is near the bottom of the Greek league as well.

A look at the Euroleague statistics sheets shows just why the Greeks have been geeks so far this season: the problem starts with the club's performance from the foul line, where they're just 118-190, or 62.1 percent. Former Houston Rocket Mitchell Wiggins is largely to blame, as he's hit an amazingly low 40%, making only 12 of 30 free throws. Wiggins makes Shaquille O'Neal look like Brad Leaf (18-18) in the line.

Wiggins' performance, or lack of one, has been one of the key reasons for Panionios's demise so far this Euroleague season, but so far the club has not made any move to replace him.

The club's other foreigner, Keith Gatlin, has been much better, and is the man Maccabi will have to watch out for tonight. Gatlin is averaging just under 13 points a game, and shoots a solid 43.2% from three-point range. He hasn't

been infected by foul-shooting, shooting a fine 85.7% from the line.

Greek national squad star Theofanis Christodoulou is also a fierce competitor, and has to be wondered why he's been made to suffer through such an embarrassing season with Panionios, who are tied with Limoges at the bottom of Group A at 3-5. However, he could start by checking his own shooting stats: 9-33 from two-point range, not exactly what was expected of him, either.

Other Panionios starters include Garric Hammink and Vasilios Kikilias, the latter just 1-10 from beyond the arc so far. George Kalaitzis and Miroslav Mylonas-Patsarski come off the bench, but none have been able to do much to help the sluggish Greek offense more than about 74 points a game.

Maccabi Tel Aviv, on the other hand, is probably in its best shape of the Euroleague season. Not only are most of the players rested after the break for the national squad's game vs. Slovakia, but three of its players - Nadav Henefeld, Oded Katash and Doron Sheffer - used that matchup for target practice as they led Israel to an easy victory. Reserve center Constantin Popa had a fine game vs. Hapoel Holon this week, and the club's confidence seems to

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE RESULTS

Austria 2, Glasgow Rangers 2-1 (2-1)

Scorers: Amundsen-Lillemo, Lunde, 20, Steve Mariet 31; Rangers-Richard Gough 34.

Manchester United 2, Rapid Vienna 0 (1-0)

Scorers: Ryan Giggs 24, Eric Cantona 72.

Juventus 2, Fenerbahce 0 (1-0)

Scorers: Michele Padovano 41, Nicola Antonao 84.

Atletico Madrid 1, Widzew Lodz 0 (0-0)

Scorer: Mikiel Pantic 63.

Alex 1, Shamshouper 0 (1-0)

Scorer: Patrick Kluhert 31.

Dortmund 5, Steaua Bucharest 3 (3-1)

Scorers: Borussia Dortmund-Stephane Chapuisat 13, 22, Rene Tretschok 43, Karsten Zickert 52, Michael Zorc 54, Steaua Bucharest-Sabin Ila 17 pen, Markus Bacu 52, Aurel Celin 79.

Rosenborg 2, AC Milan 1 (1-1)

Scorers: Milan-Dimitry Demery, 45; Rosenborg-Harald Brattstrok, 28, Vegard Heggem 69.

Porto 2, Gothenburg 0 (0-0)

Scorers: Porto-Mario Jardel 64, Edmilson 89.

Champions' League final standings

Group	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Group A	4	1	2	8	7	12
Auxerre	4	0	2	8	4	12
Gras. Zurich	3	0	3	8	5	9
Glas. Rangers	1	0	5	5	13	3
Group B	4	1	1	12	4	13
Atletico Madrid	4	1	1	14	8	13
Borussia Dortmund	1	1	4	6	10	4
Widzew Lodz	1	1	4	5	15	4
Siles. Bucharest	0	1	4	5	15	1
Group C	5	1	0	11	1	16
Juventus	3	0	3	6	3	9
Manchester Utd	3	0	3	6	3	9
Fenerbahce	2	1	3	6	7	7
Rapid Vienna	0	2	4	2	12	0
Group D	5	1	0	12	4	16
Porto	3	0	3	7	11	9
Rosenborg	3	0	3	7	11	9
AC Milan	1	0	5	7	13	7
IFK Gothenburg	1	0	5	7	13	3

Leicester blanks 'Boro

LONDON (AP) - Goals either side of half time earned Leicester a 2-0 victory at Middlesbrough on Tuesday night as Boro's league run without a win stretched to 10 games.

Steve Claridge fired the Foxes ahead a minute before the break and Mustapha Lazaar added the second a minute afterwards.

Player-manager Bryan Robson then heard the Middlesbrough fans moaning their disapproval at the latest dire performance as his team stayed at fourth from last in the standings while Leicester jumped four places to 12th.

In Division One, Sheffield United moved up to second with

Sheffield Wednesday wants to try out Nimni, Gadi Brumer

MACCABI Tel Aviv stars Avi Nimni and Gadi Brumer were invited for a trial with English Premiership side Sheffield Wednesday, Israel Radio reported last night. If the two Israel internationals find favor with the Yorkshire side and manage to work out terms, they could become the fourth and fifth Israelis to be playing in the English Premier League, following in the footsteps of Ronnie Rosenthal, Eyal Berkowitz and Roman Harazi.

Harazi, the latest Israeli export, will begin playing with Sunderland later this month.

ORI LEWIS

The fax from Wednesday was a surprise for Maccabi Tel Aviv, who did not expect the Sheffield side to ask to try out two of their players. Maccabi already knew that Chelsea was interested in midfielder Nimni and during the summer Manchester United was said to have wanted to give defender Brumer a tryout.

Sheffield Wednesday has asked for the two to fly out next week so that they can train with their squad. But it is also the time when Shimon Scharf will convene his squad for the World Cup qualifier with Luxembourg on December 15.

Brumer is ruled out of that match because of an ankle injury which needs extensive rest, so he may need some more time before he even goes for a trial. Nimni has to decide whether to stay in London or to travel north, as Chelsea player-manager Rued Gullit has invited him for a trial next week as well.

Scharf has released Harazi from the first training session next Monday so that he can fly to Sunderland to put the finishing touches to his contract.

Pugilists converge on Eilat

EILAT, better known for its waterports and jazz music, will host a three-day international boxing tournament, starting today.

Nine countries, besides Israel, will be competing in the event, called Eilat: The Red Sea, including Russia, Poland, Albania, Estonia, Ukraine, Turkmenistan, Latvia, Cyprus and Kazakhstan.

Kingdom, Scandinavia, Ireland and Greece have cancelled their participation, citing security reasons.

The competition will be held in the Arts Hall in 12 weight groups with eight boxers in each class. The semifinals will be held tomorrow with the finals on Saturday night.

Israel's Olympic boxer Vladimir Neiman will lead the local contingent with Dr. Oleg Charasomovich as the team coach.

Next year Eilat will be the site of the first European Nations Boxing Cup which is expected to draw boxers from 35 countries.

The tournament is sponsored by the mayor of Eilat, Gabi Kadish.

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Agassi loses in straight sets at Grand Slam Cup

MUNICH (AP) - After the frustrations of the last three months, Andre Agassi had the opportunity to end the year on a more positive note. He never really tried.

Agassi made a brief appearance at the Grand Slam Cup yesterday, offering little resistance in a 6-3, 6-4 loss to Mark Woodforde, who had failed to win a game in their last encounter and had never beaten Agassi in three previous matches.

"It's been a struggle most of the year. I think God that I won the gold medal (at the Olympics). But outside that, it's been a struggle.

"I just want to put it behind me and get ready to move on. I don't need any miracle cure. I just need to go back to good old fundamentals," Agassi said.

The last time Agassi played Woodforde, he beat the Australian doubles specialist 6-0, 6-0.

While Agassi bowed out, Jakob Hlasek took a break from retirement and used it to beat Cedric Pioline 2-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Hlasek was only an alternate for the event and had already announced his retirement. But the withdrawal of five players, including top-ranked Sampras, opened a spot for Hlasek and he seized the opportunity to earn some extra Christmas money.

Also yesterday, Goran Ivanisevic beat Mikael Tillstrom. Ivanisevic blasted 18 aces to win 6-4, 6-2.

Yevgeny Kafelnikov, the French Open champion, defeated Alex Corretja, 6-4, 7-6(7-3).

Devils shut out Panthers

EAST RUTHERFORD, NJ (AP) - Martin Brodeur had 28 saves and assisted on an empty-net goal in leading the New Jersey Devils to a 2-0 victory over the Florida Panthers on Tuesday night.

Brian Rolston and Dave Andreychuk scored as New Jersey handed the Panthers only their fourth loss of the season and first shutout. The Devils snapped the Panthers' six-game (5-0-1) unbeaten streak.

The win also ended a three-game personal losing streak for Brodeur.

Islanders 3, Flames 1

Travis Green scored twice and added an assist, and Eric Fichaud stopped 25 shots for his first win in a month for host New York.

Zigmund Palffy scored New York's other goal, his team-leading 17th, as the Islanders won for the third time in four games. Fichaud's last win came on November 2.

Rockies of the year candidate Jarome Iginla had the only goal for the Flames, who lost for the fifth time in their last six visits to Long Island, Calgary goaltender Trevor Kidd made 21 saves.

Maple Leafs 2, Blues 0

Mats Sundin scored his 500th NHL point on a shorthanded goal for host Toronto.

Wendel Clark also scored for the Maple Leafs.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division			
W	L	T	Pts
Florida	16	4	38
Philadelphia	14	12	29
New Jersey	13	10	27
Washington	13	11	27
N.Y. Rangers	10	13	24
N.Y. Islanders	7	10	22
Tampa Bay	7	14	21

Northwest Division

W	L	T	Pts
Hartford	11	7	28
Buffalo	13	11	27
Montreal	10	13	24
Boston	9	10	22
Ottawa	7	10	20
Pittsburgh	8	13	19

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division			
W	L	T	Pts
Dallas	16	8	33
Detroit	14	9	32
Chicago	12	12	27
St. Louis	13	13	27
Toronto	13	13	26
Phoenix	11	15	22
San Jose	9	15	20

Pacific Division

W	L	T	Pts
Colorado	18	6	36
Vancouver	13	11	27
Edmonton	13	11	27
Los Angeles	11	12	24
Calgary	10	15	22
San Jose	9	13	22
Anaheim	8	14	20

TUESDAY'S NHL RESULTS:

N.Y. Islanders 3, Calgary 1

New Jersey 2, Florida 0

Toronto 2, St. Louis 0

Vancouver 2, Detroit 2, tie

Hartford 4, Pittsburgh 4, tie

Los Angeles 4, Phoenix 1

CRITIC'S CHOICE

HANUKKA

HELEN KAYE

HANUKKA shows starting today include The Sleeping Beauty, from the Israel Ballet at the Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center, tonight at 8:30 and at 11 a.m. on Saturday; and The Jungle Book at the Noga Theater, tonight at 6, tomorrow at 3 p.m., and Saturday at 11:30 a.m., 2:15 and 5 p.m. There's Festival '96 in Haifa at the Sports Stadium, and The Hunchback of Notre Dame in Kiryat Haim at 6 p.m. today, 1:45 p.m. tomorrow and 6 and 8:15 p.m. on Saturday.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

THE Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra salutes Jerusalem 3000 in a concert devoted to new arrangements of the greatest songs about Jerusalem. Singers and choirs join the orchestra under Rafi Kadishzon. Tonight (8:30) at the Henry Crown Synagogue Hall in Jerusalem.

URI Mayer leads the Israel Sinfonietta Beersheba in a festive concert opening the new Steinberg Arts Center in Holon. Holon natives saxophonist Niv Cohen (age 18) plays the first movement from Ibert's Saxophone Concerto, while clarinetist Ariel Mordehayev (17) plays the third movement from Mozart's Clarinet Concerto (8:30 p.m.).

ARNAN Wiesel opens a new series of piano recitals at the Tel Aviv Museum titled The Piano in the Center, with Bach's Goldberg Variations, Saturday (8:30).

THE Philharmonic Woodwind Quintet plays Bach, Vivaldi, Mozart, Beethoven, Verdi and Bartok, Saturday (5:30) at the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra Guest House in Ramat Aviv.

DANCE

HELEN KAYE

THE centerpiece of the eighth Chamber Dance festival is Vexations, the nine-hour piece for piano, dancers, and video, in which 15 dancers perform 13 dances especially composed for the event. There'll also be rare dance videos. Composer Eric Satie (1866-1925) decreed that his one-minute piece Vexations should be played 840 times. They last did that in 1988, and it took about 18 hours and a relay of pianists. Here, a relay of young, enthusiastic and volunteer pianists from academies and performing arts schools will play live. They include Satie specialist Michal Tel, Shai Wosner, Yonatan Niv and Alma Gelbetz. The



Tuvia Tsafir is Baloo and Tom Avni is Mowgli in 'The Jungle Book.'

dancers include Clara Gorstin, Tamir Gilad and Michal Shahak. At Gerard Behar in Jerusalem tonight at 8:30.

CINEMA EUROPA

ADINA HOFFMAN

CARLO Mazzacurati's The Bull is a surprisingly lyrical buddy movie that centers on a pair of Italian bull breeders and the animal they steal and smuggle into Croatia in hopes of making some quick cash. There are many fine things about the film: The main actors, the lush cinematography, and carefully understated political commentary, in particular. The most notable element of The Bull, however, is without a doubt the title character himself, a lumbering creature with a ring in his nose and the big, damp eyes of matching molten lava pits.

The bull rests quietly at the center of the movie - much the way the two-wheeler did in De Sica's The Bicycle Thief - as both symbol and actuality. The combination of elements both tactile and allegorical, personal and political, lifts Mazzacurati's film well beyond its modest frame. In Italian, with English subtitles. (Cinemathèques: Tel Aviv - Saturday 9:30 p.m.; Jerusalem - Sunday 9:30 p.m.; Haifa, Monday 7 p.m.)

TELEVISION

CHANNEL 1

8:31 News in Arabic 6:45 Exercise Hour 7:00 Good Morning Israel

EDUCATIONAL TV

8:00 The Cairo Geniza 8:30 Family Relations 9:00 Looking at Arithmetic 9:25 Learning to Read 9:45 Programs for young children 10:15 Around the Globe 10:30 Literature 11:00 Mathematics 11:10 Welcome to France 11:30 Life Sciences 12:30 Art 13:00 The Onedin Line 14:00 Surprise Train 14:25 Kity Cat and Tommy 14:45 Gays, Gal and Gill 15:00 Auto

CHANNEL 1

15:30 Tinytown Tales 15:50 The Adventures of Dodo 16:00 The Mysterious Island 16:25 Friends of Shosh - original production for children 16:45 On TV - programs from around the world 16:55 Zap to Zionism 16:59 A New Evening 17:34 Zap Outside the Studio - live broadcast from around the country 18:15 News in English

ARABIC PROGRAMS

18:30 Meeting 19:00 News

HEBREW PROGRAMS

19:30 News Flash 19:31 Lighting of the first Hanukkah candle 19:34 The Simpsons 20:00 News 20:45 Basketball: Maccabi Tel Aviv vs Panionios Athens - live 22:45 American Gothic - suspense 23:30 News 00:00 Time for Language

CHANNEL 2

13:00 Make a Wish 13:30 Super Duper 14:00 Echo Point 14:25 Tac 14:50 The Best Israeli Video Clips 16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful 16:50 Lighting of first Hanukkah candle 17:00 News Magazine with Rafi Reshet 17:30 Open Cards 18:00 Santa Barbara 19:00 The Mosaic 20:00 News 20:30 Zehu Zeh Live 21:05 Dan Shilon Live with Marvels and Wonders - special Hanukkah program 21:30 Exposure 00:00 News 00:05 Ticket for Two 00:30 The Perfect Husband (1993) - a widower reveals that his daughter is actually the child of his friend and rival, a notorious womanizer who had seduced his wife a decade before. Based on a story by

CHANNEL 2

15:30 Wonder Years 16:00 Stones from Life 17:00 Rights and Wrongs 17:35 The Great Mughal - six-part series about the cynicism that ruled India in the 14th-17th centuries 18:00 One West Walks Elizabeth R - BBC series about Elizabeth I. Six plays examine different facets of one of the most complex and brilliant English monarchs. With Glenda Jackson. 22:45 Neon Rider

CHANNEL 2

13:00 Miles From Home (1988) (rtl) 13:20 Escape to Victory (1981) (rtl) 15:15 Ad Madness 15:45 The Gig (1985) (rtl) 17:15 Death Before Dawn (1992) (rtl) 18:50 News in the Cinema 19:00 The Dead (1987) - John Huston's last film presents a James Joyce short story about love and death during a Christmas past given by two elderly spinsters in 1904. With Anjelica Huston and Donal McCann. (75 mins.) 20:25 Black Widow Murders: Bianca Taylor Moore Story (1992) (rtl) 22:00 News in the Cinema 22:30 The Nutty Professor 4:45, 7:15 * Multiholland Falls 9:45 * Time to Kill 4:30, 7:15, 10 * Heavenly Joy 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 * SMADAH Stealing Beauty 7:30, 10 * Transpoting 5:30, 12:15 a.m. * ASHKELOM Line 5:30, 9:45

CHANNEL 5

6:30 Bodies in Motion 16:00 Bodies in Motion 16:30 Champions' League Soccer 19:00 Women's Basketball: Ramat Hasharon vs. Hapoel Tel Aviv 21:00 Boxing 22:00 Spanish League Soccer 23:30 South American Soccer

CHANNEL 5

6:30 Today's Gourmets 6:30 El TV 7:00 Kate and Allie 7:30 Oprah Winfrey 8:30 21 Jump Street 9:30 Santa Barbara 10:30 The Bold and the Beautiful 11:00 Khandar 11:30 Tehkikat 12:00 Home and Away 12:30 Lost in Space 13:30 Black Stallion 14:00 Kate and Allie 14:30 Today's Gourmets 15:00 Destinations 15:30 News in Hindi 16:00 Small Wonder 16:30 The Bold and the Beautiful 17:00 Fantasy Towers 18:30 The X-Files 19:30 The Bold and the Beautiful 20:00 Santa Barbara 21:00 Baywatch Nights 22:00 21 Jump Street 23:00 Quincy 00:00 Oprah Winfrey 1:00 Barnaby Jones 2:00 Home and Away 2:30 The Sullivans

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EUROSPORT

9:30 Horse racing: World Cup (rtl) 10:30 Olympic magazine 11:00 Bobsled Racing: World Cup, France 13:00 Motorsports Magazine 14:00

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6:30 Bodies in Motion 16:00 Bodies in Motion 16:30 Champions' League Soccer 19:00 Women's Basketball: Ramat Hasharon vs. Hapoel Tel Aviv 21:00 Boxing 22:00 Spanish League Soccer 23:30 South American Soccer

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Bomb found at Paris Jewish newspaper

THE editor of a Jewish weekly newspaper in Paris received a parcel bomb this week, raising fears of a new wave of terrorist attacks.

The package contained two video cassettes connected to an explosive device. It was delivered to the offices of *Tribune Juive* Tuesday, a few hours before another bomb exploded at the Port-Royal subway station, killing two people and wounding 79.

The package was addressed to editor Yves Derai and marked "personal and confidential." It was delivered by two men who were said to look like Arabs. Derai tried to open the package, but found one of the cassettes stuck to the envelope. He ripped it apart, instead of sliding the cassette out, then noticed some wires.

"That's why I didn't trigger the detonator," Derai said. Derai evacuated the office and called police, who found a bomb made of chlorate in a gas cartridge.

Paris police did not link the parcel bomb with the subway attack. *Tribune Juive* recently received a wave of antisemitic threats by mail and fax.

Derai said he thought the threats were caused by the paper's critical coverage of far-right French political groups.

Still, police officials believe the subway attack was carried out by a cell linked to the Armed Islamic

ELDAD BECK
and news agencies
PARIS

Group, and that the fundamentalist Algerian organization may also target French Jews and journalists.

Security measures around Israeli and Jewish offices are to be beefed up. In Paris, 10,000 police and soldiers were on duty in all public places, including shopping malls, tourist sites and subway stations.

Last year, Algerian fundamentalists launched a series of bomb attacks in France, killing eight people. The Jewish community was also targeted. On September 7, 1995, a car bomb injured 14 people outside a Jewish school in the Lyons suburb of Villeurbanne. The bomb went off minutes before students left for the day.

Meanwhile, French anti-terrorism investigators wondered if authorities brushed off too soon the Algerian fundamentalist threat.

The newspaper *Le Monde* said France's counter-espionage service in early November that an Algerian militant was on his way from Afghanistan to carry out attacks on French interests, but French agents lost his trail.

In January, Algerian secret services told their French counterparts that a commando from the Armed Islamic Group might be

about to arrive in France. Paris authorities, which had been misled by Algiers several times, treated the report with skepticism.

French authorities claimed victory after the attacks in Paris and Lyons last year, after they rounded up more than 100 suspected fundamentalist supporters in police raids.

Within hours of Tuesday's blast, Prime Minister Alain Juppe reimposed security measures that had been eased since the arrests.

In Hungary, meanwhile, a bomb exploded yesterday in a dustbin near Budapest's main synagogue in the latest in a series of explosions in the capital.

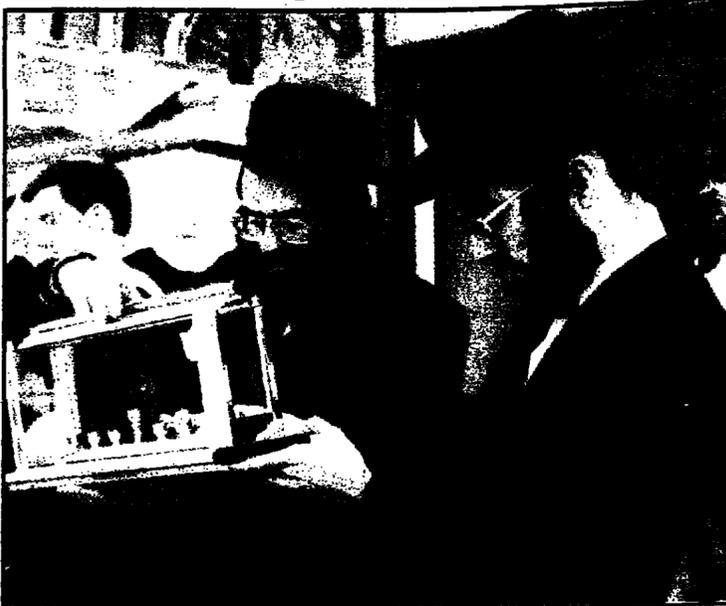
The blast, near Dohanyi Utca Synagogue, Europe's largest, hurled bits of the dustbin over an area of 100 meters.

A similar attack took place in October at the same spot.

"I don't know anything but it seems to me that no one was hurt," a policeman told Reuters minutes after the explosion, which happened at 7:10 p.m.

The explosion was heard several blocks away in the center of Hungary's commercial district.

Since September, Budapest has been shaken by 11 bombings and five shootings, apparently in a war between organized gangs. One man has been killed and two have been badly injured.



Two residents of Jerusalem's Mea She'arim neighborhood shop for hanukkiot. (Brian Hender)

Jerusalem father gets 15 years for raping two girls

A JERUSALEM father of seven was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment yesterday by the Jerusalem District Court for raping, sodomizing and molesting two girls aged six and 10.

The girls were the children of a couple who had welcomed the 38-year-old man into their home as part of the family. He was arrested a year ago after the sexual abuse had continued for an extended period. When he raped the girls, he would quote passages from the Bible, in which he said sexual relations were permissible.

The man told the judge in court that the girls had enticed him by acting promiscuously.

The girls' parents testified that the girls had become emotionally

disturbed. They were thrown out of school and excommunicated from the community.

In their ruling, the judges noted that because of the man's "despicable acts on innocent children" the chances of the girls finding husbands in the haredi community were slim.

In another rape case decided yesterday, the Tel Aviv District gave a three-year sentence to Viktor Zimelman, 30, for raping two women he took out on separate dates.

While driving them home after a night out, he took detours to abandoned areas and raped them. In a third incident, the woman managed to escape after he beat her and tore her clothes off.

The sentencing was set as part of a plea bargain, after one of the victims refused to testify in court to avoid additional emotional distress. One of the three judges, in the minority opinion, said the sentence was too light and should have been five years, given the violation of trust the women had given him.

A 26-year-old man was given eight years' imprisonment by Nazareth District Court yesterday for raping and sodomizing his pregnant wife. The man, a resident of a lower Galilee city, was charged for two incidents of brutal rape and assault — one a day after their wedding a year ago, and the other a month later. The brutal rapes caused the woman to miscarry. (Iim)

WEATHER

Haifa	13-20
Tel Aviv	15-22
Jerusalem	8-14
Beer Sheva	8-20
Dead Sea	13-23
Be'er	8-14
Netanya	10-15
Afula	8-19
Tiberias	9-20

Forecast: Partly cloudy to cloudy.

AROUND THE WORLD

City	Low	High
Amsterdam	10	12
Berlin	10	12
Buenos Aires	15	20
Caracas	25	30
Chicago	10	15
Copenhagen	10	12
Frankfurt	10	12
Geneva	10	12
Helsinki	10	12
Hong Kong	20	25
London	10	12
Los Angeles	15	20
Madrid	10	12
Moscow	10	12
New York	10	12
Paris	10	12
Rome	10	12
Sao Paulo	20	25
Sydney	15	20
Tokyo	10	12
Vienna	10	12
Zurich	10	12

Winning cards

IN yesterday's daily Chance drawing, the winning cards were the eight of spades, the queen of hearts, the nine of diamonds and the king of clubs.

Knesset debates unequal reserve duty

EVELYN GORDON

THE Knesset State Control Committee began discussing a request yesterday to establish a state commission of inquiry into the unequal distribution of army reserve duty.

According to the state comptroller's report, only 25%-30% of Jewish men aged 21-51 actually do reserve duty. About 40% are permanently exempt, either for health reasons, unsuitability, because they are yeshiva students or other reasons. Another 25% are not called because they live or study abroad, because they have gotten "early retirement" from reserve duty, or due to economic or other reasons. Even among those who are actually up, about one-third do not actually serve, due to health reasons, officers' decisions or other reasons.

Ra'anon Cohen (Labor), who submitted the request for the state commission of inquiry, said the unequal burden seriously impairs motivation to serve. Only a commission of inquiry would have the tools to get to the root of this problem, and the authority to effect changes, he said.

Cohen presented figures showing that some 30% of reservists do 80% of reserve duty, with only 4.9% serving for more than 31 days. A combat reservist does about 10 times more reserve duty than a non-combat reservist, he added.

Moshe Shahal (Labor) said he thought another cause of the decreasing motivation to serve was the fact that combat soldiers are so often required to act as policemen or guards rather than as soldiers. He suggested that all such duties be transferred to the police.

The committee will continue its discussion of Cohen's request soon.

IDF has stopped checking new recruits for police records

EVELYN GORDON

THE IDF has stopped asking for information on new recruits from the criminal registry, Avi Zamir, head of the recruitment administration, told the Knesset Law Committee yesterday.

He was responding to a question from committee chairman Shaul Yahalom (National Religious Party), who said he had heard from new recruits that interviewers presented them with all kinds of police data about themselves at their initial interviews, including arrests at demonstrations and other incidents which had never resulted in an indictment. Yahalom sharply criticized this practice.

Zamir responded that the practice had been stopped during the past year, and details from the criminal registry were no longer given to the recruiting offices.

The committee was discussing regulations relating to the criminal registry, in the wake of a High Court of Justice ruling which sharply criticized the police for having failed to get these regulations approved in the almost 15 years since the Criminal Registry Law was passed.

The ruling also required the

police to separate the criminal registry proper, which contains records of convictions, from other police databases listing pending indictments, open investigations and cases closed without charges having been filed.

Yahalom said the committee would hire computer experts to examine the police's computers and make sure these databases had really been separated.

The fact that so much information from one database made its way into the other in the past makes him reluctant to take the police's word that the problem has been fixed, he said.

Women MKs walk out on Haim Dayan

FOUR women MKs walked out of the plenum yesterday to protest the fact that Deputy Speaker Haim Dayan (Tzomet), who allegedly beat his wife, did not remove himself from a session Tuesday night in which the Knesset discussed the case of a doctor accused of attacking a female intern.

When Dayan assumed the Speaker's chair yesterday, Anat Maor (Meretz) asked to raise the issue. Dayan refused, saying the minister was being kept waiting on the podium. Maor, Dalia Itzik (Labor), Naomi Chazan (Meretz) and Naomi Blumenthal (Likud) then all walked out. *Liat Collins*

Egoz unit IDF's most active fighting force

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

"THE problem in south Lebanon you can't always tell from where you are being shot at," says Lt. Col. E. commander of the Egoz special forces.

Suddenly, heavy machine guns open up on the very path military reporters had crossed moments before, kicking up dust, pulverizing a couple of stones and sending reporters scampering for cover.

The cropped-haired, lieutenant-colonel made his point and was obviously delighted with himself. "Next we put apples on your head," he chuckles.

From out of the Levant scrub, a squad of Egoz commandos emerges, decked in camouflage ponchos and with faces covered in paint. From across the wadi, another squad leaps forward toward two Hizbullah guerrillas. The terrorists are nothing more than stuffed dolls that find themselves on the business end of IDF light arms. In a matter of seconds, the dolls fall, riddled with bullets as the commandos charge forward.

Suddenly, a Black Hawk helicopter appears from over the

ridge and swoops down to pick up the squad. Its skids are on the ground for 17 seconds before it speeds off and out of "enemy" territory.

Egoz was here. I think.

The IDF has concluded that the only way to beat Hizbullah is to learn its methods. Egoz operates in small squads with the intention of taking the fight into Hizbullah territory outside the security zone. Permanently based in Lebanon, they are able to learn every riverbed, cave hideout and village.

"We do all the missions in Lebanon, ambushes, special missions, everything," said company commander Lt. Barry, who immigrated to Israel from Glasgow, Scotland, when he was a child. A veteran of many firefights, the 22-year-old lieutenant lets out a long breath when asked to describe one.

"You feel very wound up. It's not as if I'm afraid. But I'm concerned and I am hoping that I'll do the right thing when some-

thing happens. Experience strengthens us," he says, in his Scottish lilt. "If we have any Rambos, then they are quickly put straight after their first firefight."

Shy and bright, the men of Egoz hesitate to talk of their battle experiences. As the special forces on Israel's last war-front, Egoz has seen more combat than any other unit in today's IDF.

"There are lots of good units in the IDF and this is my contribution to the state," says First-Sgt. Mickey, toting a captured Russian-made RPD heavy machine gun.

"It's not easy being in Lebanon day in and day out, but we are not alone. I feel the country appreciates us."

The Egoz fighters don't talk much. They let the stats do that. Since its first operation in July 1995, the unit has killed at least 16 Hizbullah guerrillas.

Western intelligence sources estimate that the number is closer to 50 — many in close, hand-to-hand combat. "We have intensive activity and get involved with a lot of firefights," says Einam, a soft-spoken, curly-haired veteran of bloody clashes with Hizbullah, including one in which two of his fellow squad members were killed.

"We aren't out here playing games. Our goal is to engage the enemy."

The IDF wants to show that it has taken the initiative in south Lebanon — that any time, anywhere Hizbullah guerrillas face Israeli troops, they will lose.

"We're good," said First-Sgt. Micha, who has been with the unit since its inception. "We're very good."

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